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Algeria

Prime Minister Ghozali Addresses Nation

LD2806123791 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 2250 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Television address by Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali on 27 June; place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God; praise be to God; God's prayer and peace on his messenger, our master Muhammad, the seal of prophets and messengers. Dear brothers and sisters. I am addressing you today in a style that I would like to be my own style and that of the government. I am still paying careful attention to all that is happening in the country, and I am addressing my brother citizens directly to inform them, explain the government's policy to them and share my preoccupations, thoughts, and objectives with them. Indeed, paying careful attention and talking frankly constitute a natural and self-evident style when it is a question of the relations that should exist between the ruler and the citizen. The practice of this style is an essential characteristic of the action that makes it possible to avoid many kinds of misunderstandings, mistakes, and tragedies.

Now, you realize, brother and sister citizens, why I am particularly anxious to address you on a regular basis. It is not out of a desire to appear on the screen but out of my endeavor to present the evidence. It is not, either, merely to talk just for the sake of talking, but to establish a dialogue. The purpose of this dialogue, which will enlighten us all, is to serve our country and our people together. There is no other effective way to carry out this duty, at any level of responsibility. I am fully aware that if I succeed in convincing you, I will have guaranteed that you will stand by me and that you will adopt your government's program. This will mean your effective contribution to the realization of this project. It is a necessary contribution, and without it nothing can be achieved on a sound and permanent basis.

I addressed you the first time when I was in the process of holding preliminary consultations for the formation of the government. I told you then, as I told many people whom I met within the framework of these consultations, that the first mission of the government I was about to form consisted in the achievement of a project to enable the Algerian people to have, for the first time in history, a genuine national representation through totally free legislative elections, cleanly carried out so as not to raise the least doubt in the mind of any Algerian.

The realization of this aim is, to my mind, essential to enable the Algerian people to attend to their real problems and endeavor to remedy them by fully mobilizing their capabilities and genius. This is a candid commitment I made before you, which I personally, and my brothers the ministers, will endeavor to fulfill. Consequently, as soon as the government was formed, we announced our decision not to be candidates in the coming legislative elections. That was an indication that we wanted to be an additional and symbolic expression of the truth of our intentions.

You maybe remember that I told you that the achievement of these aims requires the consolidation of civil peace, the entrenchment of security and reassurance, and the return of compassion to our hearts.

Dear brothers and sisters, we are receiving one single message from the sons of the Algerian people in Algeria's towns and rural areas. They are clearly in favor of individual freedoms and against demagogic and criminal practices. They say yes to democracy, and no to anarchy and violence. They say yes to fraternity and compassion. They say yes to the rehabilitation of the value of labor, creativity, and competition for good. Yes to national solidarity and social justice. No to negligence and laziness, and no to all forms of parasites. They say yes to the safe and effective running of our economy, no to the impoverishment of the toiling masses, and no to the marginalizing of youth. They say yes to a free press, because there is no democracy without freedom of expression, as there is no freedom of expression without independent and responsible means of communications that are characterized with professionalism and credibility.

Dear brothers and sisters: Our citizens know full well why the state of siege that we are experiencing today came about and they are reassured to see the National People's Army out on the streets. They also know that the National People's Army is here to defend the citizens' security, which was threatened; to protect the institutions whose normal functioning was endangered; and to safeguard the future of democracy that some wanted to harm. The citizens know, too, and they see this very clearly every day, that this National People's Army, which is their Army, builds, with its soldiers and the security forces, an unsurmountable barrier against provocations and attacks. The wisdom and patience shown by the Army does not at all reflect a position of weakness or indecision. It is responsible behavior that stems from a gentle force and a frank expression of the rejection of violence to spare the pure blood of the Algerians. This is an honorable position, emanating from awareness and perception, despite the enormous sacrifices it requires. Some say that the sacrifice is part of the Army's mission and duty. This is true, but does this exempt us from our duty to show gratitude to it?

Dear brothers and sisters, through the consultations that I held with a large number of party officials, representatives of the civil society, the intellectuals, the cadres, young people, and workers, I found in them a clear agreement regarding the stance expressed by the president more than once, and which is: first, it is not in any way possible to stop the democratic process, which must continue, from being completed and reaching its aim. Second, obstructing this process or deviating it from its course will not be allowed.

What has happened since the declaration of the state of siege? Most citizens have behaved with a spirit of

responsibility that deserves appreciation; this is nothing but one of the constant principles which distinguishes our people. Once more we record with great emotion that the people always show their greatness in facing ordeals. Throughout the days of the blessed 'Id al-Adha, the curfew was lifted and the celebrations took place in the usual atmosphere characterized by humility, serenity, and responsibility. This encouraged the National People's Army to lessen its presence in the capital city of Algiers; however, we saw with great regret that this conciliatory attitude was exploited in three areas of the capital in order to spread chaos and resume the series of violent acts. As a result of this behavior, the number of victims rose, as 13 people were killed and 68 were injured. I do not make a distinction between the citizens and the security men here; all of them are Algerian citizens and believers.

O brothers, we must be aware, everyone must know that the will to conciliate does not mean an absolute abdication of responsibility. The National People's Army performed its duty fully and will continue to perform that duty in a manner suited to the firmness and severity required. The state will not allow chaos to be spread in the country. Order will be maintained. The security of the citizens and their property will be protected in accordance with what is demanded by our people unanimously and insistently.

Our people have not forgotten the price they paid for freedom. Therefore, they will not allow any political party or individual to attain power by force. No political party or individual has the right to hope to achieve its goals, whatever they may be, except by democratic means, in other words without a rigid adherence to the laws in force, which will remain valid as long as the people have not decided otherwise freely and within the framework of the provisions of the Constitution.

In the permanent dialogue taking place daily between myself and the party leaders, I always seek to persuade my brethren that no political party, organization, or group can delude itself into believing that they can build their action, overtly or covertly, by intimidating people by violence. Those who do that condemn themselves to clash with the will of the people. How can anyone aspire to a legal existence while at the same time acting outside legality?

In the same dialogue, I pointed out on several occasions that our people do not understand why the state is delaying the implementation of the laws against any citizen who dares to rebel against them, calls for violence, or incites the soldiers to abandon their duty; and all this within the framework of a strategy aimed at causing a deterioration of the situation and destroying the institutions.

Dear brothers and sisters, I never asked the political parties for a blank check. [preceding sentence in French] Furthermore, the intention behind extending my hand to everyone without exception was only to promote the idea of realizing, together, a project designed to serve the public interest, namely, the completion of the democratic process. In the field of democratic action, it is my right to point out that in confronting the blatant threats which are growing against the security of the citizen and against the democratic process, there can be no neutrality, silence, or even deception. Let this be the best demonstration of political courage and the clearest expression of our attachment to the republican concept.

Each of us has the right to demand the following from the other:

1. To state frankly and clearly the choice between a peaceful exercise of democracy and the logic of violence.

2. To adopt an equally clear position on everything that might threaten the security of the people and the country and the normal functioning of the democratic process.

While I am telling some that they cannot remain seated on two chairs at the same time, I am asking the others to clarify to the people what ranks they belong to. In other words, they have to voice their unambiguous stand vis-a-vis vital issues, such as those which endanger national unity, civil peace, individual freedoms, and the continuity of the democratic process.

It is obvious that the state of siege is an extraordinary measure taken to tackle an extraordinary situation. Do I need to reiterate here that our desire and will consist in the fact that no effort will be spared until we reach an end to this measure as soon as possible? I must add at the same time that the people who most want the state of siege lifted are the same people who are required to shoulder the burden of its implementation.

Let us be clear, brothers and sisters. The issue is not between the government and the Armed Forces on the one hand, and a political party on the other. I say to those who hint and allege that in Algeria there are Muslims on the one side and unbelievers on the other: Does this mean that our people have only been part of Islam since 1989? What can we say then about the generations of Algerians who have been nourishing themselves and breathing it like oxygen for 14 centuries?

The truth is that the issue is between Algerian society in its entirety and those who do not fear taking advantage of the people's poverty, and the marginalization of youth and its tragedies. Their real purpose is to subjugate people who were born free.

We are all required to determine our stand vis-a-vis this matter clearly; that is, do we accept it, or do we prefer to join the national consensus on taking the democratic experiment calmly and serenely to its term?

Dear brothers and sisters, we are today in strong need of developing a political culture in our country based upon clarity and consultation. This culture requires tolerance and respect for others and the observance of the common rule by all. As far as I am concerned, I intend to

contribute to this by setting priorities which are: dialogue with all, without any exception, and telling the truth to the people always and without reservations. I believe that these are the requirements of democracy and the conditions of efficiency and seriousness in work.

I repeatedly said that this government is set to undertake an essential mission which consists in endeavoring to reach the organization of clean and sincere legislative elections. It is obvious that this government is also here to run the country. We must supply our markets with goods. We must prepare the coming return to schools of our pupils and students in September, God willing.

Your government, brothers and sisters, must, in all these fields and others, shoulder the role it is entrusted with. In this context, it is frankly my duty to tell you that our economic and financial situation is not good, as you very well know, because you are the first ones on whom the harm and consequences of this fall. On the other hand, we are not working enough, and we are not as efficient as required, bearing in mind that no one, no family, and no nation can acquire anything without doing anything. Mankind did not and will never stop making discoveries, but it is doubtful that it will one day discover a means of living without work.

Many, in Algeria and abroad, have described the mission of my government as a mission impossible. I think that I do not ignore the difficulty of this mission, and I never concealed its complexity. How could I conceal it from myself? I did not agree to be head of the government because I desired it, but because it was impossible to me to reject this service at such a time. Therefore, I can only stress to you that I am fully confident that this mission can very well be achieved. This mission remains, however, very critical because of very inappropriate circumstances. As much as I am convinced of the safety of the political project—that is, the full achievement of the democratic process, its soundness, and the possibility of making it concrete—I can see that this process is under threat, because of present financial problems.

You must also know that the financial problems, as far as our country is concerned, particularly when it comes to the balance of payments [preceding phrase in French], have had immediate and acute effects on the citizen's daily life. They also affect the economic apparatus and, consequently, the progress of the reforms and the economic and social rectification.

Regarding all these issues, there will be other opportunities to address you in our next meetings. It is normal that my first detailed statement be addressed to the National People's Assembly, either on the present situation or on what we hope to do. Through my address to the brother members of that assembly, I will be addressing all of you, brother and sister citizens. I will also return to address you directly just as I am doing today and I pledge to commit myself to telling the truth with all its bitterness and all the glory it carries with it, with a view to deserving the understanding and help of you all.

I conclude my address with the best and the most beautiful words, the words of God almighty:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God charges no soul save to its capacity; standing to its account is what it has earned and against its account what it has merited. Lord, take us not to task if we forget or make mistakes. Lord, charge us not with a load such as thou didst lay upon those before us. Lord, do thou not burden us beyond what we have the strength to bear. And pardon us and forgive us, and have mercy on us. Thou art our protector and help us against the people of the unbelievers. [Koranic verse]

Party Heads React to Speech

LD2906170891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Passages in quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Regarding the reactions of the political parties to the address by Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali to political parties and societies in which he called upon them to adopt a stand on what is happening in the national arena, we contacted 'Abdallah Djaballah, leader of the Nahda movement. He said the following:

[Djaballah] "The idea of reaching the seat of government through the ballot box, on which the prime minister concentrated in his speech, is good, or not bad, because the satisfaction of the people is an essential pillar of the legitimacy of authority. However, we would like the necessary realistic and legal guarantees for this to be provided so that the people will really be able to make a free, sincere, and informed choice of their rulers.

"It was also noticed that when the prime minister spoke about violence, he laid blame and threatened to use violence simultaneously. We think that the language of violence is the language of the weak. We believe that it is better to go to the people and hold a public referendum about the style of political regime within which the political freedoms should be practiced, because this is the origin of the current crisis, and with its removal the crisis, God willing, will be removed.

"We also believe that the problem today is the problem of the legitimacy of the authority and not the legitimacy of the people. The people have full legitimacy, but the authority lacks legitimacy because it lacks its two basic pillars: the pillar of the public political regime which organizes the affairs of the society and the state, and the pillar of the people's satisfaction with it.

"It was also noticed that the prime minister's address concentrated on the economic crisis and pointed out that the country suffers from a financial crisis. This is an admission of the truth. It is a bitter truth, but it makes us wonder about the reasons for this financial situation at a time during which, first, the prices of oil and gas have been rising for approximately a full year; second, Algeria's foreign debts increased; and third, investment

projects were delayed while the prices of all goods went up markedly, the markets suffered shortages of all substances, and the standards of living of the citizen did not improve. Where did all the money go?"

On the same subject, here is the position of the Modern Islamic Algeria Party as expressed by its leader, Mohamed Benmohamed:

[Benmohamed] "Concerning the situation in our country, we would like to put on record that in principle we distinguish between violence of the arrogant and the reaction of the oppressed. Our master Umar [second caliphate after the prophet] said: Do not wrong the people and make them unbelievers. The reaction of the wronged person is not only violent, but it could also make him become an unbeliever.

"As for the second point, we would like, and we hope that all the Algerian Muslims will try to get rid of what we call political idolatry so that they put the interest of the tree—Islam and Algeria—before the interest of the fruit—the party.

"Third, we consider that the solution should be political, pedagogic, and based on conviction. It should never be through the use of official force. In this context we prefer roundtable discussions across the various media organs, because the Algerian people need to listen to their capable ulema who will explain the situation to the people without prejudice against this group or that. For instance, today we are amazed that the television is showing licentious pictures, wanton words, and sports scenes while Algerian blood is being shed.

"The matter is serious and we should not allow the opportunity for a political solution based on conviction to pass, because this solution would lead to an end of the bloodshed."

We asked Mr. Ahmed Benmohamed about his stance toward the resignation of the president from the leadership of the National Liberation Front [FLN]. He said:

[Benmohamed] "We think that this is an internal matter of the party to which the president belongs."

[Unidentified reporter] "Do you think that the president's resignation would now serve the democratic march?"

[Benmohamed] "It looks as if it came to late."

[Reporter] "How is that?"

[Benmohamed] "In all countries this measure is resorted to immediately after the election of the president. But in Algeria this was delayed. We think that there is no democracy in Algeria, even in the western sense, but there is a half democracy. It is not democracy it is demi-cracy." [previous sentence in French]

Chaowki Salhi, leader of the Socialist Workers Party, said about the prime minister's address:

[Salhi] "Our stances are clear. We are not sitting on two chairs, as he said. We said that freedoms should be respected. The state of siege, which perhaps has helped some people, does not mean just respecting and defending freedoms. There are means in the ordinary laws and ordinary courts to clamp down on those who violate the freedoms of the citizens. The state of siege means that the parties and individuals do not have all the democratic rights and all their freedoms."

Concerning the resignation of the president from the FLN leadership, Chaowki Salhi said:

[Salhi] "As for President Chadli Bendjedid leaving the FLN, we think that there is no one who is not independent. Everyone has a policy. Everyone has political stances toward the democratic march and economic march. Ghozali's government, as he said in his address, is not just for the elections. It is a government which will rule, and its program is the liberal reforms that are against the people. The legitimacy of his regime stems from the era of 1962 [when Ben Bella assumed power] and from the era of 19 June 1965 [when Boumedienne assumed power]. If they want legitimacy, then our demand is that this regime elect a constituent council that will legislate the laws, and which will submit in a referendum a new constitution and election laws and economic laws—a sovereign constituent council."

Mr. Louisa Hannoun [secretary general of the Workers Party] said the following about the president's resignation from the FLN leadership:

[Hannoun] "This resignation is an internal and private issue of the FLN. It is a normal private matter for any party. This does not change anything in the political situation or in the illegitimate character of this organization.

"On this occasion we recall that Mr. Chadli Bendjedid was the only candidate of the single party system in 1988 within the context of elections organized by his party alone. As far as we are concerned, we never called for his resignation from the leadership of his party, because this concerns only the FLN.

"We have called for, and we are still calling for, a sovereign constituent council which will have all authority, and which should start by abolishing the 23 February Constitution because that constitution has an illegitimate and undemocratic character as it concentrates authority in the hands of one person and allows resorting to a state of siege at any time.

"We way that this resignation is undoubtedly and inevitably linked to the severe crisis of the state organization and the FLN, which is well known to everyone. As far as we are concerned, this decision, or this resignation, can never represent a positive reply to the extremely grave situation in which the Algerian people live, which is a state of civil war which has commenced in our country and for which those who stopped the people from self-determination for 30 years are responsible."

Further on Reactions

LD3006031791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Excerpts] The Movement for Democracy in Algeria makes a statement through Mr. Azzi, who is in charge of foreign relations. He says, in regard to the speech of the prime minister:

[Begin Azzi recording] We agree on the goal: a change on the basis of elections in a suitable atmosphere that lends credibility to the elections. What remains is the problem of the method and its application. In this connection, we have in the past proposed a possible way. It is necessary to have a framework that allows genuine consultation between the opposition parties and the authorities in order to find a political solution. If the solution comes from the government, it will not succeed at this stage, as was the case in the past. The problem lies in the application. We await the proposals of the government in this connection. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Larbi Aite Moukran of the Rally for Culture and Democracy said: With regard to the resignation of the president of the Republic from the leadership of the National Liberation Front [FLN] party, he should have done so soon after instituting the first party after the declaration of the Constitution on 23 February. His resignation today is a secondary matter concerning no one except the militants and officials of the FLN party. [passage omitted]

Regarding his opinion on the resignation of President Chadli Bendjedid from the FLN party leadership, Kasdi Merbah, president of the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development [MAJD], says: The decision of Chadli Bendjedid is no more than a new maneuver. What emerges is that he does not want to organize presidential elections in advance. We say that these elections are the only solution to the crisis. They are the final solution to the serious crisis the country is experiencing. In fact, his decision changes nothing.

Jihad Threatened; President Resigns FLN Post

NC2806162391 Paris AFP in English 1611 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Report by Hassan Zenati]

[Text] Algiers, June 28 (AFP)—Algeria's Moslem fundamentalist leader Abassi Madani threatened at tense Friday prayers to declare a "Holy War" and refused to negotiate with the government until it cleared the streets of troops and lifted a state of siege.

Tens of thousands of people raised clenched fists and shouted "Allah Akbar" (God is Great) outside the mosque in Kouba, southeast of central Algiers, as Mr. Madani, leader of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), threw down his challenge to the Army after a week of violence.

Earlier Friday, some 200 tanks and armoured cars rumbled up to key posts throughout the capital after a night when Moslems in working-class districts defied a curfew. The military trained their guns on densely populated streets where barricades of burned out cars and rubbish still smouldered.

Anti-riot police slinging machine-guns checked all vehicles driving into the Kouba area, where the "barbus" (bearded young fundamentalists) had gathered, many busy wiring loudspeakers up into the trees within a large radius of the mosque. The military vehicles pulled discreetly back before Mr. Madani arrived to lead the prayers.

President Chadli Bendjedid declared the state of siege on June 5, after days of Moslem agitation, and called off planned general elections. The FIS wrested control of many councils in a local government poll last year, the first free vote since independence in 1962.

Mr. Madani also accused Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali of "betraying his pledge" to hold both general and early presidential elections by the end of the year, provided the FIS called off a general strike and protests launched on May 25.

"Is he mad?" the Moslem leader asked of the prime minister, who had gone on television late Thursday to say that there was "no question of interrupting the democratic process".

Mr. Madani charged military leaders with "committing a mortal sin by threatening to shoot those wanting to go the mosque", and cited a verse from the Koran damning those who prevent the faithful from accomplishing their prayers.

"The Army has taken control," he said, accusing troops and police of using "rockets" and live ammunition on demonstrators in protests this week, which has reportedly seen more than a dozen people killed and almost 100 injured.

Military authorities Thursday said six people had died in the previous two days at Lakhdaria, 60 kilometres (35 miles) from Algiers, including two policemen, one of whom was found with his throat cut. At least 18 people were injured.

The Army said two people wearing military uniforms were among the demonstrators. Mr. Madani said Friday that he had proof that some snipers who fired at soldiers and gendarmes (paramilitary police) were "agents" of the authorities.

In a separate development, President Chadli Bendjedid resigned from his largely honorary post as president of the National Liberation Front (FLN), informed sources said. His decision was announced by letter, dated June 10, in a closed door central committee session.

Mr. Chadli Bendjedid thus becomes "president of all the Algerians", but has fully separated the state and the

party, observers said of the move, which follows the naming of Mr. Ghozali to head a government where the FLN is not represented as such.

In his televised speech, Mr. Ghozali expressed his "determination to leave no stone unturned" to lift the state of siege "as soon as possible."

The prime minister addressed a firm warning to the FIS, hitting out at statements by Front second-in-command Ali Belhadj who, he said, had "openly called for violence, stepping up appeals for soldiers to desert and working... to smash institutions."

Mr. Ghozali also expressed concern that the troubles would put at risk Algeria's opening up to foreign investors at a time when it faces large repayments on its 25 billion dollar foreign debt.

Mr. Belhadj announced the suspension of two dissident founder members from the Front's top body, the Majliss Ech-Chours, for criticising Mr. Madani on television.

The two, Ahmed Marrani and Bachir F'Kih, had described Mr. Madani as being "dangerous to the FIS and to Moslems."

Ulema Council: Jihad 'Unimaginable'

LD3006210791 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Statement by Ulema Council of the Wilayat of Algiers, read by Cheikh Belkacem Kahla, member of the Ulema Council and imam of Algiers Great Mosque, issued in Algiers on 30 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. A call to the Muslim people of Algeria from the Ulema Council [al-Majlas al-'ilmi] of the Wilayat Province. Praise be to God, and may prayers and peace be upon the prophet of God. [passage omitted]

Muslim people of Algeria: The situation which our country is living through today has reached a level of tension which warns of danger. It is thus the duty of all of us, individuals, families, organizations, and officials in all fields, to work in unison with all the wisdom and reason with which we have been endowed, to avoid all the grave consequences that could result from this crisis situation. We should rely in this on our Islamic values, which sow the seeds of love and brotherhood and proscribe the causes of discord, sedition, and the spilling of the blood of Muslims. [passage omitted] Whoever kills a Muslim deliberately, no matter what his intention is, commits an act of sedition. [passage omitted]

Muslim people of Algeria: We call on all of you, officials and citizens, to turn to God, fear him, respect his limits in whatever you say or do, and commit yourselves to working toward raising the lot of Islam and its word. All the Algerian people, praise be to God, are Muslim, so it is unimaginable for there to be a jihad or war among its sons and groups, who yesterday had stood as one in a jihad against one enemy, that is, the enemy of their religion and homeland. Thus, God had granted them victory, and with it they have attracted the world's fascination. For the sake of all that, we call on those who are responsible to adhere to the stipulations and morality of Islam, to respect the Islamic institutions and those working in them, and to return to the religous authorities in everything that concerns Islam and Muslims. In that way alone can we ensure the unity and cohesiveness of the Muslim people of Algeria on the basis of its Islamic faith, for which it would not accept a replacement, fear the tremors threatening it, and protect it from every hand being extended to it with evil and aggression, whether from inside or outside. [passage omitted]

May peace and God the Almighty's mercy and blessings be upon you.

The Ulema Council of the Wilayat of Algiers.

Bendjedid Resignation 'Separation' of Party, State

LD2906103291 Algiers APS in Arabic 0900 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Algiers, 29 Jun (APS)—Some days ago, on 10 June to be precise, President Chadli Bendjedid addressed a message to the National Liberation Front [FLN] secretary general announcing his decision to resign from the chairmanship of the party. An inner committee of the party Central Committee was acquainted with this decision during the emergency FLN session that concluded its proceedings in the Oval Hall of the Olympic Stadium on Friday.

The president's decision to quit the FLN chairmanship does not prevent him from remaining a struggler at the grass roots level. Indeed, sources close to President Bendjedid have pointed out that he will be emotionally committed to the principles of November [Algerian revolution of November 1954] which are the bases of the FLN.

This resignation came in compliance with the desire of the opposition, which has always expressed its hope that the president should be, before anything else, a president of all Algerians. The resignation will, furthermore, bring about a de facto separation between party and state; this will allow the FLN, which is now just a party like any other, to redeploy and reorganize itself upon new bases, with no more responsibilities than any other party for the situation in the country. Nor will it be answerable for any matter that is not its concern.

New Organization Threatens Acts of Terrorism

LD3006140191 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jun 91

["Text" of communique issued by "The Organization for Combatting Tyrants in Algeria"; place and date not given]

[Text] The Algerian Press Service [APS] received today, Sunday, a communique sent through the post and signed

by an organization calling itself "The Organization for Combatting Tyrants in Algeria." In this the communique, the organization has threatened to carry out acts of sabotage against national and foreign interests in Algeria.

Here follows the text of the communique:

We inform the ruling regime that should it fail to announce the date of the presidential and parliamentary elections within 20 days from the moment this communique is published in the press, and should it fail to leave power in the hands of the elected assemblies, we will carry out the following acts:

1. Hijack Algerian and foreign aircraft
2. Physically liquidate officials
3. Carry out bomb attacks inside media institutions
4. Kidnap the children of officials in the pyramid of power
5. Blow up foreign interests in Algeria

[Signed] "The Organization for Combatting Tyrants in Algeria" [Munadhamat Muharabat al-Tughat fil Jaza'ir]

'Armed Civilians' Arrest FIS Deputy Belhadj

NC3006175491 Paris AFP in English 1735 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Algiers, June 30 (AFP)—Ali Belhadj, a popular imam (preacher) and deputy leader of the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was arrested Sunday by "armed civilians" at the headquarters of Algerian television, FIS sources said. The civilians "could only have belonged to the intelligence services", according to Abderrazak Radjam, a close colleague of FIS leader Abassi Madani. It was not known why Mr. Belhadj, imam in the working class Kouba district in Algiers, was at the television station, nor where he was taken.

Immediately after the announcement of Mr. Belhadj's arrest, unmarked cars in which masked Army commandos were seated took up position in front of the FIS headquarters in central Algiers.

Mr. Belhadj, together with Mr. Madani, was summoned to appear Thursday at a "preliminary inquiry" by police investigators, but did not respond to the summons. The subject of the inquiry was not known. However, the two fundamentalist leaders have been cited in a police report concerning a French national, Didier Roger Guyan, arrested on June 12 and found in possession of arms and explosives.

The Algerian capital has been torn by two successive nights of fighting between the Army and Islamic extremists.

Belhadj, Madani Questioned by Police

NC3006210991 Paris AFP in English 2106 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Algiers, June 30 (AFP)—The head of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), Abassi Madani, was questioned by police here early Sunday evening, a reliable source said—but there was no official confirmation.

He was questioned at FIS headquarters, along with other movement officials, a few hours after police questioned the FIS deputy leader, Ali Belhadj, Sunday afternoon in front of the Algerian television building. The questioning of Mr. Belhadj was confirmed by Algerian television, and was announced by Algerian Radio in Arabic and in French.

FIS sources had said earlier Sunday that Mr. Belhadj, a popular imam (preacher), had been taken away by "armed civilians" from Algerian television headquarters.

Mr. Belhadj and Mr. Madani were summoned to appear Thursday at a "preliminary inquiry" by police, but did not respond to the summons. the subject of the inquiry was unknown. But they have been mentioned in a police report about French national Didier Roger Guyan, arrested on June 12 in possession of arms and explosives. The Algerian capital has been torn by two successive nights of fighting between the army and Islamic extremists.

Military Issues Communique on Arrest

LD0107091991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] In a communique delivered to APS yesterday evening, the military authorities announced that on Sunday they had ordered the arrest of Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj for willfully fomenting, organizing, launching, and leading an armed conspiracy against the security of the state. The communique added that the attempt to cause sedition in order to come into power, for which they are responsible, has led to a loss of life and destruction of property for which no final assessment has been made yet.

The communique also said that the main perpetrators of these disturbances and offenses and their accomplices will be individually called to account for their actions before the judiciary and that the same measures will be taken against all those who persist in sustaining and spreading these disturbances. Finally, the communique stated that in these tense times the military authorities call on the population to remain calm and to trust the services in charge of restoring stability and order. In addition, the communique stressed that during this current investigation, no political group will face any special measures.

Military Communique Reports Casualties, Arrests

LD2806222191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] A military communique published this evening announces that several violations of the curfew were recorded in some places. The communique adds: Groups of about 100-500 people formed in Kouba, Berraki, El-Harrach, Hadjout, and Tipaza, and rioters erected barricades, which were removed by security agents. In Debbih Cherif Street in the capital, some elements tried to occupy the police station after surrounding it and blocking roads.

The communique points out that 13 people were arrested in La Casbah and Le Telemly with the charge of inciting violence.

The military authorities, reporting on the results of the security forces' interventions during the night of 27 to 28 June throughout the nation, noted three deaths and 10 people wounded in the capital. Three people were wounded in Relizane, while 70 people—13 in the capital, 4 in Oum El-Bouaghi, 10 in Annaba, 4 in Souk Ahras, 4 in Taref, 2 in Tebessa, and 33 in El-Oued—were arrested. The military authorities point out that there were three foreigners among the four people arrested by the security forces in Souk Ahras.

Government Adopts Measures To Ease Situation

LD2906160991 Algiers APS in English 1013 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Algiers, 29/6/91 (APS)—The Council of Government met on Thursday under the presidency of Sid Ahmed Ghazali head of government. The Council listened to an account about the situation in Algeria particularly the recent events since June 24, 91 that unfortunately caused new victims.

A regulation system has been set up in application of presidential decree 91-196 concerning the [word indistinct] of the state of siege in order to provide public authorities with legal means that enable them to give a legal and transparent aspect to their action. The objective sought from such measures is to protect state institutions and preserve nationals' security in their activities and daily life.

In order to guarantee the protection of the nationals' rights and public liberties, this regulation system stipulates appeal's possibility and creates in this regard organs within which the civil society is widely represented.

Furthermore, the Council of Government examined a draft project relative to the government's programme due to be submitted to the parliament's approval after its adoption by the Council of Ministers. The debate that followed the exchange of points of view, allowed to stress the main axes of the governmental action so as to concretize the mission assigned to it.

In its action, the government plans to privilege constant dialogue, extend the institutional scope of concertation and involve all social partners in seeking all means that could satisfy the society's concerns. [passage as received]

Later, the head of government insisted on the necessity to concretely start acting and resolutely tackle the most urgent aspects of the economic and social life. The Council of Government eventually called on all nationals to join its action so as to gather all conditions necessary to soothe the minds, restore civil peace and create a climate of fraternity, serenity and solidarity in the light of our civilizational values.

New Director of Security Appointed

LD2906132891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] It has been learned from the Ministry of Interior that Mr. Mohamed Tolba has been appointed head of the General Directorate for National Security in place of Colonel Bachir Lahreche, who has been recalled for other duties. Mr. Mohamed Tolba took over his new office today.

Commentator Assails Iranian, French Views

LD3006144391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] The leader of the Iranian revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, stated yesterday in Tehran that the slogan "Allahu Akbar" [God is greater] chanted by the Algerians is a lesson they have learned from the Iranian revolution. In his turn, the Iranian foreign minister stated today that his country hopes that Islam will prevail in Algeria. He added that such statements do not constitute interference in Algeria's internal affairs. Regarding these statements, radio political commentator Barhoum Boudjoumaa has written this commentary:

As efforts are concentrated on the national level to find a way out of the crisis in which the country lives and to restore stability to the country and security to the people, some voices outside Algeria are heard; some of them weep for the fate of democracy and some of them grieve for the future of Islam in Algeria.

The Algerian people know those who weep for the fate of democracy, and they know their methods and styles when they were here some time ago. They abolished democracy in form and essence and refused even to allow its name to be uttered when they were enslaving and herding this people into the detention camps and prisons. Democracy has now become, in their view, a basic demand that should be fulfilled if French-Algerian relations are to continue and grow. This is very strange. They are now demanding what they forbade us yesterday, and what they do not consider a right for the Corsicans within France.

As for those who are afraid for the future of Islam within Muslim Algeria and consider themselves the Islamic and

revolutionary authority of the 20th century, they are either ignorant of the history of peoples or naive to the extent of not distinguishing between a political stance dictated by some interests and a religious stance. In this context we list the following remarks:

First: We do not believe that the Iranian revolution was a model or reference for the Algerian people so that they should adopt it as a basis for their awakening;

Second: In all their uprisings, resistance, and revolutions against the invaders and colonialists, the Algerian people were always committed to their Islamic origin;

Third: The Islamic awakening in Algeria was born neither today nor yesterday. It is an integrated part of the history of this nation and of its entity since it accepted Islam as a religion and adopted it as a tolerant faith which guides its way, and hence Algeria was victorious through Islam;

Fourth: The Iranian model remains with all its political, religious, historical, and geographical characteristics a special Iranian form which has nothing to do with other experiments;

Fifth: The imams of Iran should look back into history in order to remember and confirm their stances toward the Algerian revolution. Those who did not support us yesterday—we cannot trust their advice today. Also, those who pretend to forget the events of history should go back and reassess the recent Iranian stance towards the Muslim Iraqi people when they faced calamity and destruction at the hands of the U.S. forces and their allies.

Iranian Ambassador Received by Foreign Minister

LD3006192691 Tehran IRNA in English 0534 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Algiers, June 30, IRNA—Tehran-Algiers relations and issues of mutual interest were discussed in a meeting between Iranian Ambassador to Algeria Javed Qorbanoghlu and Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi here Saturday.

The Algerian minister stressed the need for continuous consultations and talks between Iran and Algeria underlining that Iran is a major country in the Middle East and must play a key role in settling the Middle East issues.

Qorban Ughli conveyed greetings of Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to his Algerian counterpart on his appointment to the post and wished him success.

Asked To Clarify Khamene'i Remarks

LD3006194291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] The Algerian News Agency, APS, reports that the Iranian ambassador was received today at the Foreign Ministry. According to the same source the Iranian ambassador will provide clarifications concerning the remarks of the leader of the Iranian revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i, and by the Iranian foreign minister, about the domestic situation in Algeria.

Assembly To Discuss Ghozali Program 3 or 4 Jul

LD3006163391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali was today due to present the program of his transitional government—which does not draw its program from any political party or any particular ideology—before the National People's Assembly. However,the approval of this program by the Council of Ministers has been delayed and consequently its presentation before the parliament for a vote of confidence has also been postponed.

The evening paper EL MASA, published today, has learned that this morning the deputies resumed their spring session, which had opened last April, behind closed doors to examine purely internal issues concerning the parliament and the situation in the country. This spring session is expected to end today and, according to EL MASA, the parliament will discuss the program of Mr. Ghozali's government on 3 or 4 July in an extraordinary session to be held for this purpose.

Three Yugoslavs Arrested for Smuggling Bullets

LD2906203191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] The security services continue to watch for serious acts of possessing and smuggling weapons. At Annabah harbor, three aliens were arrested on board a ship where weapons were hidden. Details are in a dispatch from Oran:

Three seamen of Yugoslav nationality were detained by the border police. They were coming from New Orleans on board the vessel 9Stantinov), which was carrying corn. They were detained after a search operation. Police found 600 magnum 32-mm caliber bullets, which were concealed inside the electrical panel of the ship. The bullets were in their original boxes.

Investigations reveal that these bullets were bought in the United States, in the city of Boston, to be taken to Yugoslavia for use against any possible attack.

The three persons will be tried today. According to the statement of the accused, which were confirmed by the ship's captain, there is no connection between the Yugoslavs and any Algerians. The ship's captain explained that he was completely unaware of the presence of these bullets inside the electrical panel of the ship.

Kuwait

Prime Minister on Gulf War, Saddam's Intentions

LD2906155691 London KUNA in Arabic 1355 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 Jun (KUNA)—His highness the Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh S'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, has declared that Iraq's designs on Kuwait are still there, and that Saddam Husayn "thinks, plans, and intends" to carry out another operation aimed at implementing his aggressive ambitions—ambitions which do not stop only at Kuwait, but go beyond it to cover all the Gulf states. His highness said that it is not possible to define the type of action, or the way in which Saddam will try to achieve his wishes. He confirmed in an interview with AL-ITTIHAD published here today that one of the most prominent lessons we have learned from this crisis is the close cooperation at present and in the future with the fraternal countries that stood with us in various fields for the sake of our liberation. He said that Kuwait is now looking for security arrangements in a wide and comprehensive sense, so that the Iraqi aggression may not be repeated, and to prevent any other state from committing the same folly. "Therefore an agreement was made with our brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council and with the two sisters Syria and Egypt, in order to prepare a clear visualization through what was named 'the Damascus declaration', which we signed on 6 March. We are still looking for a comprehensive formula to implement all the clauses of the Damascus declaration."

Concerning the attitude of Kuwait to the Damascus declaration—especially that question marks were raised around it—his highness the heir apparent and prime minister said that we agreed, in accordance with it, on a "framework of principles," and the foreign ministers of the declaration states will discuss the method of work in relation to these in Kuwait on 9 July. He expressed optimism with regard to the consultations and meetings which took place, and those which will take place among the foreign ministers of the concerned sides in Kuwait in order to discuss the details in this declaration.

On Iran's role in the security arrangements, his highness pointed out that "Iran exists in this region, and we should as states cooperate among ourselves in the various fields for the prosperity of this region. As to the talk about any military cooperation, it will be left for discussion by the foreign ministers of the eight concerned countries."

His highness the heir apparent declared that "Kuwait upholds its right to acquire any weapons from any friendly state to defend itself." He said "we are not an aggressive state, and we do not aspire to attack any state. Therefore, it is our right to buy any weapon to defend ourselves."

Commenting on U.S. President George Bush's recent initiative on the need to curb the sale of classical weapons to the countries of the region, and on the dangers of weapons of total destruction as well as the possibility of their negative effects on the sale of weapons to Kuwait, his highness expressed "Kuwait's support for the U.S. President's call to ban weapons of total destruction," stressing "it is logical and natural that the call should include all types of weapons, and all countries of the region."

Replying to a question on the possibility of repairing bridges with the countries that supported Iraq in its aggression, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah said: "One feels shaken when one remembers those countries that publicly and openly cooperated with Iraq in defiance of Kuwaiti feelings. When one remembers what happened, one finds it hard to digest. How could they cooperate with the aggressor at a time when our relations with them were good?"

His highness wondered: "Is this the price the Kuwaiti people should pay? Was their stance compatible with morals? They gave up any principles for the sake of their interests."

His highness expressed "His regret that such countries still think Saddam scored a great victory. Those countries should therefore change their posture and policies if they are eager to preserve the unity of the [Arab] rank and word. What they did had its own reasons; the future will uncover all that. Kuwait cannot, however, easily forget those countries' stance."

Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah praised Egyptian-Kuwaiti relations, and described them as "strong and solid." He registered appreciation and gratitude to the great people of Egypt and their president, Husni Mubarak, for the continuous efforts he had made—whether before the invasion, in all fields, so as to arrive at an agreement liable to prevent the crisis from escalating, or during and after the crisis.

He hailed Egypt, "the mother of principles and values, its people and president, who stood by justice against injustice, against the aggressor, and with international legitimacy."

He added: I register my personal, thorough appreciation and gratitude to the people and president of Egypt. The military role Egypt played in the liberation of Kuwait was heroic; it was promiment, and history in its turn will remember Egypt for its people, its president, and its heroic forces.

He noted that relations with Egypt are extremely strong, and that for that reason we will intensify cooperation with it in various fields. We welcome the role of Egyptian companies and experts in various fields in the reconstruction of Kuwait, and in building up again what was destroyed by the unjust Iraqi regime.

At the end of his statement, he reaffirmed that Egyptian-Kuwaiti cooperation in various fields has always existed and will continue to exist and grow.

Prime Minister Says Husayn Plans Another Attack

NC2906090891 Paris AFP in English 0806 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, June 29 (AFP)—Kuwait's crown prince and prime minister accused Iraqi President Saddam Husayn of planning another attack against Gulf states in an interview published here Saturday.

"Saddam is still contemplating and planning another operation to fulfill his hostile designs," Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah told the United Arab Emirates daily AL-ITTIHAD.

"Such designs do not stop only at Kuwait but cover all Gulf countries," he warned.

"I cannot specify the way in which Saddam is trying to achieve his goals but I affirm that Iraqi designs on Kuwait still exist."

Iraqi troops occupied Kuwait for seven months and declared it Iraq's 19th province before being forced out by a U.S.-led coalition in late February.

Under a United Nations ordered cease-fire agreement, Iraq was made to drop its claims on Kuwait. But the emirate charged this month that Baghdad still considered Kuwait to be Iraqi territory.

To forestall another invasion, Kuwait plans to deploy troops from neighbouring Gulf states as well as Egypt and Syria in line with the Damascus declaration of March which called for the positioning of a force drawn from the region alone to protect the emirate.

Shaykh Sa'd said the foreign ministers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council plus Egypt and Syria, who signed the declaration, would meet in Kuwait on July 9 to discuss such a deployment.

"I am optimistic about the consultations and meetings which have occured and will occur among the foreign ministers of the parties concerned," the premier said.

"The July 9 meeting will be an opportunity to discuss all details in the Damascus declaration," he added.

Asked about a role for Iran, which has opposed Egyptian and Syrian participation in the proposed Gulf security measures, Shaykh Sa'd said regional states should cooperate with Tehran in all fields.

While voicing support for U.S President George Bush's proposals to curb weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, Shaykh Sa'd said Kuwait would continue to buy arms for its defense.

"We are not an aggressive nation nor do we think of aggression against any country. So it is our right to buy any weapons from any friendly country to defend ourselves," he insisted.

Minister Denies Violation of Human Rights

LD3006201191 London KUNA in Arabic 1017 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 30 Jun (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh al-Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah said Kuwait is applying the law and is respecting legitimacy and it will not allow any infringement of this under any circumstances.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD published here today, he affirmed that there are no violations of human rights in Kuwait, pointing out that the priority of the Kuwaiti Government now is to apply security measures that relate to collecting weapons from all, whether Kuwaitis or non-Kuwaitis, within a period no later than Tuesday, 2 July, the final date of this decree. [passage omitted]

About the existence of weapons in the hands of the public and about the rumors circulating about the existence of armed militia, the interior minister said: To start with, I would say that there is no such thing as a militia in Kuwait. This is a word often used by the Western news agencies. There is no place for it among us. But as for weapons and ammunition, these do exist and in abundance and with many people, whether they are Kuwaitis or other nationalities. The source is known. The enemy who wanted to subvert Kuwait from within and who wanted to split the ranks of the Kuwaitis and their brother Arabs brought the weapons. Therefore we quickly announced the need for all—Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis—to hand in the weapons they have in their possession. We did not differentiate between one nationality and another. This matter is a first priority with us. We fixed Tuesday 2 July as the final date for everyone to hand in whatever weapons he has. There were those who cooperated and responded from the beginning and hastened to hand in their weapons. Most of them were Kuwaitis. But other nationalities are still holding on to weapons.

The Kuwaiti interior minister continued: "After the expiry of the period in question, we shall start taking other measures that will be based on a total search campaign, a wide combing operation, and a comprehensive survey. It is our concern to collect the legacies of the war and the weapons left behind by the occupation forces. We will not allow anyone to overstep the law and overthrow legitimacy under any circumstances." [passage omitted]

About the problem of the stateless [bidoun] people, of whom it is said there are 20,000, the Kuwaiti interior minister said: "First, the number is inflated. Second, individuals who worked side by side with the Kuwaiti resistance during the occupation will be protected. There were honorable brothers who worked in the military establishment—the army and the police—and there were those who were martyred for Kuwait, and those who contributed with their Kuwaiti brothers to the liberation of Kuwait. These, like Kuwaitis, will return to their jobs.

As for those bidoun who do not belong to these groups, they will return to their country. Generally, their position is subject to a serious government study at present."

Shaykh Ahmad al-Humud al-Sabah denied that the Kuwaiti authorities have detained 300 Egpytians who were accused of entering Kuwait illegally. He said: "The number is exaggerated. The real number is actually not more than 70. The issue of these people is being settled as far as the Interior Ministry is concerned. We are treating the matter as a priority. There is no benefit to us in detaining any innocent person."

About the circulating reports that the security organs at the Interior Ministry resorted to torture, the Kuwaiti minister said: "This is another thing the foreign media has spread and some of their followers have been circulating. Torture took place during the occupation. However, there has been no torture after the legislative authorities took over the reins of affairs. At the beginning there were cases of torture. Those who committed them have been referred to the public prosecution." [passage omitted]

Government Campaigns To Collect Illegal Arms

NC3006101791 Paris AFP in English 0907 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, June 30 (AFP)—Kuwait is to launch a campaign this week to round up arms left behind by retreating Iraqi troops, Interior Minister Ahmad Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah said Sunday.

Shaykh Ahmad told the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al-ITTIHAD that many foreigners, as well as Kuwaitis still had weapons that must be handed in to the authorities by Tuesday.

"Weapons and ammunition exist in large amounts in the hands of many people, whether Kuwaitis or other nationalities," he said.

He said Iraqi troops left weapons behind when they were driven out of the emirate in late February by a U.S.-led international force, to "undermine the internal situation and drive a wedge between Kuwaitis and their Arab brothers."

"Some people have cooperated with us and gave up their arms. Most of them are Kuwaitis," he said. "But there are other nationalities who are still keeping weapons."

After Tuesday's deadline, the authorities will mount a large- scale campaign to search for weapons, the interior minister said.

"We are determined to collect the weapons and other war material left behind by the occupation forces," he said. "We will not allow anyone to violate the law under any circumstances."

Shaykh Ahmad denied what he called Western press reports about militias in the emirate, which was occupied by Iraq for seven months until its ouster by a U.S.-led multinational force.

"There are no what is called' militias' in Kuwait. Such a term has been spread by Western news agencies," he said.

Defendants Charged in Absentia To Be Pursued

LD2806171191 London KUNA in Arabic 1625 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] The Kuwaiti information minister, Dr. Badr al-Ya'qub, said that all defendents sentenced in absentia while outside Kuwait will be claimed in accordance with the procedures followed in this respect and that Kuwaiti justice must absolutely take its course. [passage omitted]

41 Prisoners Return From Iraqi Regime Prisons

NC2806172891 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] A group of prisoners who had been held in the Iraqi regime's prisons returned to the homeland today. The group comprised 41 prisoners, including 14 women.

Source Reports Jordan's 'Hypocritical Behavior'

LD2506131791 London KUNA in Arabic 0936 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] London, 25 Jun (KUNA)—The recent news about a Jordanian-Iraqi trade agreement did not surprise any one who monitors the Jordanian regime's behavior and practices.

The trade agreement between Amman and Baghdad, according to which Jordan will supply Iraq with approximately $600 million of goods, constitutes a violation of the UN resolution to preserve the economic sanctions against Iraq until it fully implements all the international resolutions related to its occupation of Kuwait last summer.

However, those who monitor the ruling regime in Jordan know well the commercial sense enjoyed by its representatives and their great ability to snatch the opportunities to accumulate more money, which we doubt will be directed to ease the stifling economic problems from which the Jordanian people suffer.

Also, those who have monitored the behavior of the Jordanian regime since the eruption of the Gulf crisis, caused by Iraq's occupation of Kuwait on 2 August, could clearly see the hypocritical and exploitative nature of this behavior.

During the first days of the occupation, the [Jordanian] regime calculated that there would be no Arab nor international reaction, and that Iraq's swallowing of Kuwiat would pass unchecked and then the conspirators could sit together to divide the spoils.

But they were disappointed. The entire Arab and international community rose against the occupation and insisted on resisting it. Amman started to sound the drums of the Arab solution and called for them to be patient and not to be hasty. Amman then refused to join in the Cairo emergency Arab summit's condemnation of Iraq's sin of occupying Kuwait, in whose disastrous repercussions our Arab world still lives.

When its calls for an Arab solution failed Jordan started to knock on the doors of the international community, attempting to break its unity and commitment to put an end to the occupation and implementation of the international resolutions. Jordanian officials toured the world, warning against the destructive ecological and human repercussions of the war without bothering to convey these warnings to their nearest neighbor, who caused that disaster and who resided in Baghdad.

However, the international community proved its strong will and proceeded with its commitment to put an end to the occupation, as it did in February. The regime in Jordan realized its great predicament: its Arab and international isolation; it's stifling economic crisis, which deteriorated even more with the return of 200,000 of its citizens who were working in Kuwait; the psychological frustration and sense of personal defeat felt by those who mobilized the Jordanian people to support Saddam Husayn; and the disintegration of the government and loss of direction.

However, the Jordanian monarch, who has proved in his long years in power that he is too clever to be besieged or isolated, started to play the tune of solving the Palestinian problem, utilizing the U.S. momentum in the region after the end of the Gulf war, and also using the U.S. pursuit [of peace] to find a representative for the Palestinian people at the settlement negotiations. King Husayn has seen his role there. Who better than the United States to lift his isolation and bring him out of his predicament? If he succeeded in that then his reward would be great. We think that starting from this premise King Husayn has expressed his readiness to hold direct negotiations with Israel. We think this is the reason why the recent government reshuffle brought a Palestinian to lead the government.

What the Iraqi-Jordanian trade agreement has revealed was no surprise because the Hashemite regime has always showed something different from what it really intended. This was repeatedly done in many cases, which history has witnessed and recorded, starting from its role in the Baghdad Pact, the 1967 defeat and Black July, including cases that the days ahead will reveal about the role played [by Jordan] in the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

Minister Notes Security Situation 'Under Control'

JN3006112791 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Jun (WAKH)—Kuwaiti Minister of Interior Shaykh Ahmad Hamud al-Sabah has stressed that the security situation in his country is under control, and that there are no human rights violations in Kuwait.

In an interview published by AL-ITTIHAD today, he said that his country applies law and respects legitimacy, and will not allow violations under any circumstance. He pointed out that the government's priority in applying security measures is now in gathering arms from Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis by no later than Tuesday.

The Kuwaiti minister denied the existence of so-called armed militias in Kuwait. He said that this term was circulated by Western news agencies but is nonexistent. However, he said that many people—whether Kuwaitis or of other nationalities—have weapons and ammunition that came from the Iraqi aggression, and that he is currently working to gather them from all people.

Qatar

Amir Leaves for Europe 26 Jun

JN2606084891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0650 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Doha, 26 Jun (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad al Thani, amir of Qatar, left this morning for Europe.

He was seen off by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, deputy amir and heir apparent. On hand to see the amir off were shaykhs, ministers, and senior civic and military officials.

Yemen

Salih Receives Bush Message on Gulf, Middle East

JN2906133891 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General Ali Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received a message from U.S. President George Bush responding to the message sent to him by the chairman of the Presidential Council on the ensuing developments of the Gulf crisis, as well as the ongoing efforts to establish peace and stability in the entire region on the basis of UN resolutions, especially UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

In his message, President Bush stressed the United States' interest in and eagerness to promote bilateral relations and cooperation between the two friendly countries. He prasied Yemeni unity as a civilized achievement that was realized on democratic and

peaceful basis. He expressed appreciation and admiration for the democratic approach, freedom of expression, and political and party pluralism pursued by the Republic of Yemen. The message indicates that the United States has decided to resume its food aid program to our country.

The message was conveyed by the U.S. charge d'affaires in Sanaa when he was received by the brother chairman today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani.

United Arab Emirates

Minister Leaves for Paris Oil Meeting

JN3006105291 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Yusuf Bin-'Umayr Bin-Yusuf, minister of petroleum and natural resources, left the country today to participate in a symposium for dialogue between oil producer and oil consumer countries starting tomorrow in Paris.

In a statement before departing Abu Dhabi, Bin-Yusuf said that this symposium takes on a special importance because it will be the first meeting of its kind between producers and consumers in a long time. He said discussions will deal with a number of oil-related issues and on exchanging views in a manner conducive with finding channels of communication and common language for understandings between producers and consumers.

His excellency said the symposium, which will last for two days, basically aims to realize the interests of both the producers and consumers by finding ways to lessen the fluctuations in crude oil markets. His excellency stressed the role of the industrialized, oil-consuming states in developing the oil sectors of the OPEC states by using financial investments and technical expertise in facing the expected rise in world demand for oil. He said the nature of participation in this symposium will allow holding a positive, constructive dialogue.

The symposium will be attended by a number of OPEC members, a number of other producing and consuming states, and international and regional organizations that specialize in energy issues.

On the possibility of the consumer states broaching the environmental issue, his excellency said oil and gas are regarded as two of the best sources of energy, especially when compared to coal and nuclear energy, because their negative effects on the environment only amount to half of those caused by coal.

Saddam Orders Cooperation With Inspection Team

JN2806192391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1901 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired a meeting for the Revolution Command Council [RCC], attended by the ministers of defense and foreign affairs.

The meeting reviewed reports from the UN Security Council on the issue of the Iraqi authorities' cooperation with UN representatives in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

The president ordered all the relevant departments to cooperate fully with the UN representatives, facilitate their task in harmony with Iraq's pledges, and resolve all the bureaucratic problems that may emerge during cooperation. The president authorized the foreign minister to immediately order all departments and organs which the UN representatives wish to acquaint themselves with or to inspect, to allow them to do so without hesitation.

INA Calls Reports on UN Incident 'Baseless'

JN2806195491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jun (INA)—INA has learned from well-informed official sources that reports circulated today by some news agencies that a UN inspection team was fired on while trying to inspect one of the Iraqi installations are baseless.

These sources said that Iraq has been, is still, and will continue to be faithful to its commitments in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

The sources added that Iraq has no interest in depriving the inspection teams of visiting its nuclear and nonnuclear facilities, because they are originally meant for peaceful purposes.

The sources also said that Iraq has been making every possible effort to facilitate the inspection teams' mission. Therefore, he added, what has been said is completely unfounded.

Paper Urges Investigation Into Shooting Incident

NC3006132191 Paris AFP in English 1300 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 30 June (AFP)—An Iraqi daily Sunday called for an investigation into a recent incident in which soldiers shot at a United Nations-commissioned team inspecting Iraqi nuclear facilities.

"An investigation must be opened to identify those reponsible," said the paper, Babylon [as received], which is run by 'Uday Saddam Husayn, the president's son.

"Until when will the administrative services continue to act in this manner that could henceforth cause damage to the Iraqi people and facilitate the enemy's conspiracy against Iraq?" the paper asked.

After the incident in which Iraqi soldiers shot over the heads of the UN investigators from the International Atomic Energy Agency, President Saddam Husayn said he had ordered full cooperation with them by civilian and military authorities.

The paper acknowledged Iraq's responsibility in the matter although other Iraqi newspapers continued to accused the United States of seeking pretexts "to maintain the economic embargo against Iraq."

Commission spokesman David Kay charged Friday that Iraqi Army troops opened fire on the experts as they photographed and filmed trucks they suspected of transporting nuclear material.

The inspections are part of the terms of UN Security Council resolution 687 for a cease-fire in the Gulf war.

UN To Dispatch 'Senior' Officials to Baghdad

JN2806174891 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] According to UN diplomatic sources, the UN Security Council this evening decided to dispatch senior UN and International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] officials to Baghdad as a result of today's incident in which IAEA experts were fired on to prevent them from entering Iraqi nuclear facilities. Diplomatic sources also added that no one was hurt.

The sources said that today's decision was adopted unanimously following a Soviet proposal.

Official Explains Attitude to UN Inspection

JN2806154191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jun (INA)—Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Nizar Hamdun has stressed Iraq's commitment to the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions and its cooperation with all the committees the UN secretary general has sent to Iraq.

At a press conference held here today and attended by news agency correspondents, television networks, local, Arab, and foreign newspapers, and INA, he said that Iraq has cooperated fully and positively with all the inspection committees sent by the UN secretary general and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA].

He added that some media allegations that Iraq did not cooperate with the United Nations coincide with efforts by several governments and humanitarian agencies to lift the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq and to lower the percentage ceiling on Iraq's contribution to the reparation fund proposed by the UN secretary general to the UN Security Council—with the objective of alleviating suffering, including the difficulties that threaten lives and affect the majority of Iraq's citizens.

He noted that upon inspecting Iraqi chemical facilities, the UN team—of which 70 percent are American experts and 90 percent are from the states that carried out the aggression against Iraq—has stressed in a 24 June press statement, following its 9-14 June visit to Iraq, that it could not confirm the existence of covert activities concerning biological and nuclear capabilities at the facilities.

The Foreign Ministry under secretary pointed out that the inspection team affirmed in its statement that it found no signs that Iraq is deliberately trying to delude the team, and that the Iraqi authorities have fully cooperated.

He added that we were surprised at the reports from New York on the recent visit by the IAEA special committee team and the Iraqi authorities' refusal to allow the team to inspect one of Iraq's nuclear facilities.

He added that the committee asked permission to visit Iraq on 23 June, which coincided with the four-day observance of 'Id al-Adha, which is an official holiday. He said that it was a tradition in all Islamic and Arab countries to stop work during the 'Id, and that we should respect these rituals on these sacred days to show respect for the beliefs of our people. We told the committee that we would be willing to receive them after the 'Id, he added.

He explained that the team arrived in Baghdad on 23 June, the first day of 'Id al-Adha, and that they were received in the evening by Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn. He noted that the foreign minister did his best to explain the situation, but to no avail. The foreign minister told them frankly that on these days, he could not contact all the parties that would facilitate their visit to the sites they wished to see, and he promised to do his best in this regard, but without making any commitments.

He noted that on Sunday morning, 24 June, the team submitted a note expressing their wish to inspect and visit a military site in Abi-Ghurayb in the morning. The written memorandum did not specify the location and geographic coordinates that the team wanted to see in this huge complex. Enclosed with the memorandum was a map with two arrows pointing to two specific locations.

He added that the same day in the afternoon, the team visited the area in which the two sites are located, and that they were allowed to conduct an on-the-spot inspection of these two sites. When the team said they wanted to move to other sites, however, they were told that there are several authorities within the Abi-Ghurayb complex, and that all the units are not under a single jurisdiction.

He said there has never been any nuclear or chemical activity in this complex, and therefore it is outside the terms of reference of the team as defined by the UN Security Council. Hence the requirement for a new authorization to facilitate inspection.

The team made several tours of other sites, including al-Tuwaythah, al-Tarmiyah, al-Musayyib, and al-Za'faraniyah. Access to these sites was quite easy, all of them being assigned to the IAEA and the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization.

A senior military officer who was in charge of Abi-Ghurayb complex and who accompanied the team on its visit to the first site also spoke at the news conference.

At noon on 24 June, he said, the committee came to the site without notice from the authorities. In accordance with standard procedure, he got in touch with high authorities to obtain an admissions permit for the international team. This was granted despite the fact that the day happened to be an official holiday marking 'Id al-Adha.

He added that he took the team along to the camp in his charge, and noted that the team requested to visit another nearby camp outside of his area of responsibility. He told them it was not possible for him to accompany them there, the second camp being outside his jurisdiction.

Also addressing the news conference was Dr. 'Abd-al-Halim Ibrahim al-Hajjaj, the man in charge of the scientific policies and programs section at the Iraqi Atomic Energy Organization [IAEO]. He pointed out that during its 14-22 May stay in Iraq, the team visited more than 70 structures, including laboratories, reactors, and warehouses for nuclear material—all under the control of the IAEA.

The team visited ordinary laboratories that were not necessarily subject to inspection by the IAEA and which were not engaged in any nuclear activity. The team also visited administrative offices, workshops, kiosks, and garages, he added.

He noted that the international team expressed its satisfaction at the cooperation extended by Iraqi scientists to facilitate their mission. They also called at another site in al-Tarmiyah, affiliated with the Ministry of Industrialization and Military Industrialization. That facility is not associated with the IAEA.

Al-Hajjaj described as inaccurate the information on Iraq's nuclear activity as presented by the U.S. delegation to the Security Council.

UN Envoy Interviewed on UN Team, Sanctions

JN3006065291 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Telephone interview with Iraq's UN Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari by Suhayl Khuri in New York; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Khuri] Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, reports over the last 24 hours speak of what the Americans call a new military option against Iraq. How do you comment?

[Al-Anbari] It is Iraq's view that there is no real problem that should elicit these statements and provocations by any side. The only thing is that the UN team searching for chemical and mass-destruction weapons listed in the cease-fire agreement failed to enter one military facility. The reason for this was that the terms agreed to between the liaison officer and the UN team were not met. It is also known that transportation, telephone service, and other services are difficult, or rather non-existent, in some areas of the country. Moreover, there are hundreds of military and industrial institutions distributed all over Iraq, and the permission of the affiliated authorities of such institutions must be obtained. At any rate, Iraq took firm steps to limit the bureaucracy that might obstruct obtaining quick approvals. The Iraqi Revolution Command Council authorized the foreign minister to give the UN team permission to inspect any military, industrial, or civil institution in accordance with the task assigned to it by the Security Council. Moreover, leader President Saddam Husayn issued a statement instructing all government institutions to fully and rapidly cooperate with the UN team. Therefore, we believe that any statements attempting to threaten or intimidate Iraq are unjustified because Iraq is careful to rapidly implement these resolutions. The rapid implementation of these resolutions is to Iraq's benefit.

[Khuri] Mr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, are there any obstacles that would prevent the UN Security Council from adopting a resolution lifting the embargo imposed on Iraq?

[Al-Anbari] For its part, Iraq has honored all commitments imposed by the Security Council resolutions. Lifting the embargo on Iraqi oil exports depends on the fulfillment of some conditions set by the United Nations and its committees. If these committees do not rapidly fulfill their tasks—such as establishing a reparations fund and controlling some weapons of mass destruction—then, in accordance with Resolution 687, some conditions would remain suspended. The UN bodies, not Iraq, are responsible for fulfilling these conditions. When they are fully honored, the embargo is supposed to be automatically lifted. This is concerning exports. Regarding the embargo on Iraq's imports, there is no longer an embargo on food and medical supplies. Other materials could be imported after some brief red tape. The real problem is a financial one. Iraq's assets abroad are still frozen, although the Security Council permits the freeing of these assets. However, most, if not all, of these countries continue to freeze Iraqi deposits abroad. Since the UN Sanctions Committee has not yet allowed Iraq to export oil in order to cover Iraq's deals for foodstuffs and others items, the Sanctions Committee has created a vicious circle in which the sanctions issue revolves. Despite this, we hope to find solutions in the coming days.

[Khuri] We thank Mr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations.

[Al-Anbari] You are welcome Mr. Suhayl.

Foreign Minister Receives UN Delegation 30 Jun

JN3006192691 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1846 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn received a UN delegation headed by Rolf Ikyus, chairman of the United Nations' special committee. During the meeting, they discussed ways that Iraq and the United Nations can cooperate to implement Security Council Resolution 687.

The UN delegation, which comprises Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and Yasushi Akashi, UN under secretary general for disarmament affairs, arrived in Baghdad today.

Kurdistan Front Rejects Baghdad Proposal

NC3006104891 Paris AFP in English 1039 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Shaqlawah, Iraq, 30 June (AFP)—The Kurdistan Front, a coalition of seven parties in northern Iraq, on Sunday rejected the Iraqi Government's proposals for solving the Kurdish problem, a spokesman for the group said.

Ahmad Bamarni of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said the government of President Saddam Husayn had put forward "unacceptable conditions" to the Kurdish parties.

Negotiations have been underway since April between the rebel groups and Baghdad to hammer out an agreement on autonomy for the Kurds in northern Iraq.

Further on Kurdish Rejection of Baghdad Proposal

NC3006122491 Paris AFP in English 1200 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Shaqlawah, Iraq, 30 June (AFP)—The Kurdish rebel coalition has turned down the Iraqi Government's conditions for Kurdish autonomy and demands more negotiations, a rebel spokesman said here Sunday.

Ahmad Bamarni of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said President Saddam Husayn's government had put forward "unacceptable conditions" to the Kurdistan Front, a coalition of seven parties.

It had called on the Kurds "to lay down their arms, fight against domestic and external enemies and to sever all ties with the Western world," the spokesman said.

Negotiations have been underway since April between the rebel groups and Baghdad to hammer out an agreement on autonomy for the Kurds in northern Iraq.

The Front has prepared "two texts of counter-proposals and voted on them unanimously to present them to Baghdad's representatives during talks which are to resume shortly," Mr. Bamarni said.

He said the two documents called for "normalization of the situation in northern Iraq and the adoption of a law for Kurdish autonomy within a program of democratization in Iraq."

The PUK spokesman, a close aide to the group's leader Jalal Talabani, said however that only "minor differences" remained between the Kurds and Baghdad on the mapping out of an autonomous Kurdish region.

Talks would resume in Baghdad or in Irbil, Iraqi Kurdistan, he said.

In Damascus, Iraqi opposition leaders at a conference said Baghdad was reluctant to grant autonomy to the Kurds or democracy to the Iraqi people.

Abdel Jabbar Frmane [name as received], an envoy of the Kurdistan Front and also a PUK official, read a message from the Front to the delegates, but its contents were not disclosed.

Sources in Damascus said the Front would pursue its efforts through the joint action committee of the Iraqi opposition, which includes Shiites.

On Saturday, a spokesman for the opposition coalition meeting in Damascus had said the negotiations between the Iraqi Government and Kurdish rebels on autonomy were blocked.

But the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK) said that intra-Kurdish talks on the proposed accord had been underway since Thursday in Shaqlawah and that "good news is expected within two to three days."

The participants at the Damascus conference called for a pause in the negotiations with Baghdad.

In December 1990, the joint action committee drew up a plan for democratization in Iraq and the fall of President Husayn.

Barzani Denies Negotiations Running Into Trouble

JN3006193291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1842 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 30 June (INA)—Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, has denied remarks attributed to him and carried by some radio stations to the effect that the negotiations with the political leadership have run into trouble and that the delegation of the Kurdish parties has rejected the agreement.

In a statement to INA today, Barzani said: "I refute this news item; I did not make such a statement, and the leadership of the Kurdish Front is continuing its meetings and is insisting on the agreement."

Barzani stressed: "We are very close to agreement; we are finished with the main issues, and we will return to Baghdad very soon to work out the final form of the agreement and sign it."

He added: "We do not need to negotiate through foreign radio stations when we can negotiate with the country's leadership directly and in the best atmosphere and concern for Arab-Kurdish brotherhood."

He added that he "noticed big attempts to cloud the agreement." He stressed that he is committed to peace, because there is no alternative to peace and brotherhood to build a prosperous Iraq.

Kurds Want More Talks Before Signing Agreement

NC2906152591 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Kurdish leaders meeting in northern Iraq have decided to hold further negotiations before signing any agreement with the defeated tyrant's regime. A spokesman for the Democratic Party of Kurdistan has stated in London that the conditions laid out by the tyrant's regime to sign an agreement with the Kurds—that the Kurds hand over their heavy-caliber weapons, that two Kurdish radios halt broadcasting, and that the Kurds sever relations with foreign governments—are not acceptable to all the Kurds.

Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, has criticized the absence of clear boundaries of the autonomous area in the draft agreement.

The Kurdish leaders had earlier discussed the draft agreement that was prepared by Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, during his talks with the tyrant's regime.

Kurdish Sources Cited on Agreement With Baghdad

PM2806154291 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Jun 91 pp 1, 7

[Kamran Qurrah Daghi report: "Barzani and Talabani Decide To Delay Agreement With Baghdad"]

[Excerpt] Shaqlawah (Iraqi Kurdistan)—Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani, joint leaders of the Kurdistan Front, have announced that they agreed on Tuesday to delay signing the agreement with Baghdad and to continue negotiating and holding meetings between the front's leadership and representatives of the Kurdish public to adopt a unified position on the Kurdish demands.

Barzani received Talabani just outside Shaqlawah on his arrival from Turkey. They embraced in front of thousands of their supporters at their first meeting in six weeks. The meeting lasted over two hours and took place amid speculations about the existence of disagreements, especially over the constitution and the determination of the autonomous region of Kurdistan. Talabani said that a statement on normalizing conditions in Iraqi Kurdistan would impose on the Kurdish leadership commitments for which it cannot take responsibility.

Sources participating in the Kurdistan Front leadership's meetings yesterday expected these meetings, which may end today, to result in the announcement to send "the committee of experts" to Baghdad to deliver new proposals and amendments on autonomy and the normalization of conditions in Iraqi Kurdistan, to prepare a draft agreement with Baghdad before the Front's leaders go there to sign it.

The sources consider the agreement in its present form unacceptable and "humiliating for the Kurds, since it obliges them not only to abandon their Iraqi allies but to fight them with weapons as well."

In the rest period between the two sessions yesterday Barzani told AL-HAYAH that the important question from which he still proceeds is that "there is no alternative to an agreement with Baghdad."

Some participants in the meeting thought that the Kurdish delegation returning from Baghdad were perhaps over optimistic. They added that the agreement is not complete, and important clauses in it have been left suspended "until Barzani and Talabani return to Baghdad to settle them and to sign the agreement," the participants quoted Iraqi officials as saying. Another participant described the objections to the versions and commitments as "premature."

A third participant told AL-HAYAH that this could be a hint to those demanding that the Kurds play their cards so to obtain more concessions from the government. He specifically cited the fact that the international situation has changed in the Kurds' favor since Barzani went to Baghdad and added this change should be exploited to secure guarantees for any agreement. [passage omitted]

Tehran Radio Reports Kurds Reject Autonomy Draft

NC3006073291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Iraqi Kurdish groups have rejected the draft agreement on autonomy for the Iraqi Kurds and have declared that it imposes unacceptable conditions. The Iraqi Kurdish leaders announced that they cannot accept the boundaries the Baghdad Government has stipulated for the autonomous Kurdish region, as this area does not include the oil-rich city of Karkuk or the cities of Mandali and Khanaqin. The Iraqi Kurds rejected the government's conditions that they surrender their heavy and medium weapons, fight alongside the Ba'th party in military operations, and sever all foreign contacts.

Saddam Reportedly Dismisses Army, Police Officers

NC2906164091 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] The defeated tyrant, Saddam Husayn, has dismissed approximately 1,500 high-ranking officers from the Iraqi Army as part of his attempt to retain power following his defeat in the Gulf war.

Informed Arab sources said today that 180 high-ranking police officers have also been dismissed and replaced by others regarded by Saddam Husayn as more loyal to his regime.

These dismissals took place after it was revealed that Saddam Husayn has replaced his chief of staff and chief of intelligence in a fourth major change in these commands since Saddam's defeat in the war and expulsion from Kuwait.

The sources affirmed that most of the dismissed Army and police officers have been pensioned off and the others have been detained.

These, and other developments confirm that a state of instability prevails in some army units following much speculation that the Armed Forces are increasingly worrying Saddam Husayn in the wake of the humiliation he suffered as a result of the war, and the popular revolution in northern and southern Iraq that followed the war.

Most analysts believe that the Army is the only reliable challenge to Saddam. They also believe that the insistence of the United States and Britain on maintaining the trade sanctions imposed by the United Nations as long as Saddam Husayn remains in power are widely viewed as a signal to Saddam Husayn's officers that toppling Saddam is the only way to end their country's deteriorating situation.

Army Officers Reportedly To Support Peshmergas

NC0107080491 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] Our sources have revealed that, in an attempt to calm the situation in our beloved north, a number of Army officers have assured the Kurdish peshmergas that they will side with them if the Kurds face any problem or danger.

This move responds to the massive demonstrations that followed the execution of two peshmergas in as-Sulaymaniyah and seeks to prevent the spread of popular protests that recently erupted in Irbil, Dahuk, and Zakhu.

AL-THAWRAH Cited on U.S. Threats of Force

JN3006093291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0612 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 30 June (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that the Bush administration has persistently been using various pressures and maneuvers to starve the Iraqi people and keep them impoverished for as long as possible.

In an editorial published today, the newspaper—the mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party—refutes the new unjust campaign being propagated by the United States against Iraq, saying that the United States is determined to continue its inhuman policy of starving

the steadfast Iraqi people, impoverishing them, mortgaging their will, and restricting their freedom to use their national resources. Each passing day provides evidence that the U.S. Administration is using every possible means to harm this mujahid people, violate their sovereignty, and undermine the splendid status of oneness, which is gaining strength and cohesiveness, existing between the Iraqi people and their symbol and leader, Saddam Husayn.

AL-THAWRAH continues: As part of a suspicious new conspiratorial and aggressive endeavor, the U.S. Administration has purposely launched an unjust and venomous propaganda campaign against Iraq and made up baseless "facts" to misrepresent Iraq's position and its sincere and serious cooperation with the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA].

The paper says: Not only that, the U.S. Administration headed by Bush has returned again to brandish the use of force against Iraq and to threaten, in all insolence and arrogance, to deal "accurate hits" and to bomb the sites suspected of housing "nuclear" material, through flimsy and totally exposed pretexts and allegations.

The paper affirms that the U.S. Administration is making all this spurious and dishonest fuss to achieve a host of exposed objectives and purposes, foremost among which are further attempts to terrorize and blackmail Iraq and to exert political and psychological pressure on it, especially since Iraq is bound to have enraged the U.S. Administration by its strong will, steadfastness, and the cohesiveness existing between its people and their historic, enlightened, and honest leadership.

AL-THAWRAH indicates that Iraq has cooperated seriously and in earnest with all the committees dispatched by the UN secretary general and the IAEA. Besides, Iraq has honored its commitments and undertakings and will continue to do so in implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions. Iraq has no intentions of going back on its firm commitment to cooperate in earnest with the United Nations, the paper adds.

The paper terms the order leader President Saddam Husayn issued to all responsible agencies to fully cooperate with the UN representatives, to facilitate their mission in line with Iraq's undertakings, and to resolve all bureaucratic problems entailed in this cooperation as a sincere indication of Iraq's cooperative position with the United Nations and other international bodies and organizations.

Concluding its editorial, AL-THAWRAH says: We are no longer ignorant of the fact that the Security Council has turned, in light of the total U.S. hegemony over the management of its affairs, into a mere executive organ of the Bush administration, conferring "legitimacy" and unanimity on its decisions and proposals and implementing its decisions and its evil and aggressive whims as well.

Arens Reports on Washington Visit

TA0107090191 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Jul 91 p 3

[Report by Asher Wallfish]

[Text] The U.S. Congress will vote in favor of Israel's request for housing loan guarantees because it supports and understands Israel's needs, Defense Minister Moshe Arens told the Cabinet yesterday at its weekly session.

Arens, who was reporting on his recent visit to Washington, where he conferred with Defense Secretary Richard Cheney, said he did not discuss political issues while in the U.S.

He told the ministers he came away from Washington "with a good feeling."

Arens said there was "a lot of talk" in the U.S. about an upcoming struggle over the request for housing loan guarantees. Israel is said intending to seek the guarantees for $10b. worth of housing loans spread over three to five years.

Levi Calls On Genscher To Meet Aid Commitments

TA0107105291 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Jul 91 p A2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi yesterday sent his German counterpart, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, a missive firmly demanding that Germany fulfill its commitment to aid Israel in absorbing new immigrants. Among other things, Levi writes that he was disappointed to hear the reports from the Bonn embassy about the German Government's lack of willingness to fulfill the commitments, as they were made to him in his talks with Genscher and Kohl during his visit to Germany.

Levi reminds his counterpart of the talks they held on several occasions, in Germany and in the United States, and notes that despite Kohl's promise, made in March, to begin bilateral discussions at the level of experts to fulfill the commitments, the talks have not yet started.

The Israeli foreign minister writes that he was astonished by the reports that Germany is explaining its avoidance of the commitments by citing political circumstances which have no relevance to relations between the two countries or to the German commitment to Israel.

This letter was sent because Bonn, following coordination between the United States and Germany, decided to suspend the immigrant absorption aid until Israel shows flexibility in the political process. Israel is rejecting any German pressure because it is felt here that relations between the two countries are based on the German people's profound obligation to the Jewish people because of the holocaust.

Along with the foreign minister's letter, heavy pressure is being exerted on the German Government by the heads of the U.S. Jewish organizations against the linkage Bonn has been trying to establish between the political process and immigrant absorption aid.

Security Officials Brief Cabinet on Iraq

TA3006175891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] The Cabinet was told today that Iraq is misleading the United Nations about its nuclear facilities, chemical weapons, and ground-to-ground missiles. Security officials told the Cabinet that the United States is showing determination in the face of Iraq's duplicity, but it is not clear how this determination will be translated into action. More on the weekly Cabinet session from Jack Katzenell:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Security officials told the Cabinet that Iraq is sabotaging the work of the UN investigators and supplying misleading data on its nuclear facilities. A number of ministers expressed concern about Iraq's violation of its undertakings to the international community. In the view of Minister Without Portfolio Rehav'am Ze'evi, for example, Iraq's nuclear potential poses a threat to the entire region.

[Ze'evi] If Saddam Husayn will have nuclear capability, he will behave like a real crazy leader, and it will be a big danger for the world, for the free world.

[Katzenell] Health Minister Ehud Olmert, like most of his colleagues, refuses to say what he thinks the United States should do about Iraq's nuclear facilities, provided, Olmert says, that they disappear as soon as possible. Olmert hinted, however, that Washington made a mistake when it halted the Gulf war with Saddam Husayn still in power.

[Olmert] Well, I think that there is a growing feeling amongst many that, judging the situation now, after a few months, that the job was not completed. And, as long as Saddam Husayn is in power, and he has possession of nuclear capability, I believe that he is still dangerous to the stability in this part of the world, and proper measures should be taken in order to stop it right away.

[Katzenell] The Cabinet was also told that the Iraqi dictator misled the United Nations over the number of ground-to-ground missiles he possesses, and that a UN committee had established that Iraq's chemical weapons are in a poor state of maintenance. [end recording]

Shamir on Responsibility for Palestinian Refugees

TA2806114891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says that the Palestinians constitute a majority in Jordan; therefore, they cannot claim to be either stateless or homeless. If the Palestinians have a problem with the refugee camps, said

Shamir, it is the Arabs' fault. He added that Israel, which wishes to solve the problem, is interested in direct negotiations with each and every one of the Arab countries. Because this is a profound conflict, the negotiations are bound to be a prolonged process; however, the very start of negotiations will be an achievement, even if no results are achieved, said Shamir.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that the prime minister made these remarks in a conversation with three British Parliament members in his bureau.

Olmert on Preconditions for Syrian Talks

TA2706085091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Minister Ehud Olmert said that if the Syrian response to the United States is that the convening of a peace conference depends on an Israeli commitment to withdraw from the Golan Heights, there will be no peace conference.

The Israeli Government, Minister Olmert said, will under no circumstances agree to such a condition. Israel is willing to enter into negotiations with Syria without any preconditions. He said that, in his view, we must not withdraw from the Golan Heights because it has been strategically assessed that the regime in Damascus is unstable. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Minister Olmert made the remarks during a tour of the Golan today.

Sharon Discusses East Bank of Jordan River

TA0107072191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel]

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon is not a man of compromise, at least not political compromise, when addressing veteran members of Herut's Betar Youth Movement. We are situated west of the Jordan River, he says, on the territory between the Jordan and the sea, and it must be stated clearly: Israel will never withdraw from the territory of western Eretz Yisra'el; it will never withdraw. These remarks received loud applause.

In another part of his speech, Sharon referred to possible political negotiations, saying: Not everything is negotiable. There are things that are not to be discussed at the negotiating table. Eretz Yisra'el is not negotiable, and this must be said clearly.

When it comes to our right to the territory east of the Jordan River, Sharon has no doubts: The territory is ours, even if another state is currently there. The construction and housing minister put it this way: Before every encounter or any other peace move, it must be made unequivocally clear that all of Eretz Yisra'el belongs to the Jewish people, even if today de facto there is a Palestinian state on the eastern banks of the Jordan River. This does not mean that we have lost our right to all of Eretz Yisra'el.

This is what Sharon told veteran members of Betar, the Herut youth movement, yesterday. Naturally, his remarks won him a standing ovation.

Official on Syria, Jordan Roles in Peace Process

TA2606120291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Justice Minister Dan Meridor says it would be difficult to promote the political process without Syria. Syria might disrupt the processes by means of political and military threats or by acts of terror. Interviewed by our correspondent Mira Amsalem, the justice minister said that the process launched by the Americans is based largely on the inclusion of Syria. That is why the United States is currently focusing its attention on persuading the Syrians. Dan Meridor hopes Israel will not be forced to pay the price for this persuasion.

As for Jordan, Minister Meridor said that if it is ready to proceed toward negotiations without Syria, this will be a great step forward, as he believes the Palestinian problem cannot be resolved without Jordan.

RSA Envoy on Rejection of 'Arafat at ANC

TA2706161591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] South Africa's [RSA] Ambassador to Israel Johan Lotter says that his country will not permit Yasir 'Arafat to enter to participate in the African National Congress conference. Our correspondent Yitzhaq Feller reports that the ambassador claimed that Israel is one of the few countries in the world that has not yet given South Africa a positive signal. Israel might consequently miss a good opportunity to enter South African markets.

Abu-Sharif on Peace Process, Intifadah

TA2106043091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ (Supplement) in Hebrew 21 Jun 91 pp 11, 13

[Interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's media adviser, by Yizhar Be'er, in Rome on 7 June]

[Text] [Be'er] Is it true that you are used as 'Arafat's "trial balloon?"

[Abu-Sharif] No, I am 'Arafat's adviser. When I wrote the famous article, six months before the Algiers resolutions were adopted, there was talk that it was a balloon, but we saw that following that article, an ongoing democratic debate began in the PLO which led to the adoption of new approaches. After some time, people understood that 'Arafat had also adopted the same approach. I cannot say anything against 'Arafat or without his agreement.

[Be'er] How did the Gulf war and the PLO's support for Iraq influence the Middle East situation?

[Abu-Sharif] The PLO did not support the invasion of Kuwait, and I have written proof of that. The PLO always sought a political solution based on an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. Several days before the war broke out, I handed Italian Foreign Minister Andreotti [as published] a letter from 'Arafat in which he tried to recruit European opposition to the war, but the effort was foiled because of the United States' determination to get involved in the Gulf and destroy Iraq.

The war hurt us in the European political arena and in pan-Arab relations, for example, but we are now in a process of rehabilitation. On the other hand, the war set off an ongoing earth tremor throughout the Middle East, which has had an impact on all the Arab states in the region. In a painful way, the war opened up new chances for democratization in the Middle East. Look what happened in Saudi Arabia. For the first time, people there sent a memorandum to King Fahd to set up a parliament. Shamir is the one who does not see the developments taking place in the wake of the Gulf war. He continues to live in the past, 40 years ago. I would suggest to him that he retire and give younger leaders a chance to inscribe their names in the history books. I have the impression that Shamir knows only how to say "no." No to Camp David, no to 242, no to any constructive plan. One must learn to say "Yes!" to everything that does not conflict with Israel's interests.

[Be'er] Do you know potential Israeli leaders who would be easier to deal with on the Palestinian issue than Shamir?

[Abu-Sharif] I do not know Shamir personally, but I have read much about him. He is 76. He founded many organizations and was a radical activist in achieving Israel's independence and a pioneer in fulfilling the ideals of Greater Israel. I know that it is difficult to get old people to change their minds or to move them to make new and creative decisions. For example, my father, who lives in Amman, is now 79, and it is also difficult to put new ideas into his head. I believe that young people are capable of understanding that geography no longer is a guarantee of security. We are now living in a new world in which international relations are based first of all on economic ties and not on a balance of power.

Economic competition is more important than biological, chemical, or atomic weapons. Israel must understand that only a peace accord can give it security and bind it to the Middle East. Israel will never be able to compete economically with powers like the United States, Germany, and Japan. Its markets, mineral resources, and economic sources are situated in the Middle East.

[Be'er] You have still not said whom you would prefer as prime minister of Israel instead of Shamir.

[Abu-Sharif] I am ready to talk to anybody who is prepared to make peace, including Shamir himself. But as far as I understand, Shamir is not interested in peace. But in his party, there are young people, Meridor for instance, and Olmert, the Likud princes.

[Be'er] But the Likud, and public opinion in Israel in general, is becoming more right wing.

[Abu-Sharif] Public opinion in Israel operates like anywhere else in the world. You have a certain percentage of extremists on both sides, maybe 25 percent and 25 percent. The other 50 percent will follow the leaders of that moment.

[Be'er] So you prefer a strong leader in Israel?

[Abu-Sharif] Of course. That is why I suggested that Shamir retire.

[Be'er] What is the PLO's position on a joint delegation with Jordan? King Husayn has agreed to it.

[Abu-Sharif] We have no problem with King Husayn. We are coordinated with him. The main issue is not the composition of the delegation, but whether Israel is now prepared for peace. Sometimes Israel's moves seem to me like a game played by a student council. If Israel wants peace, it must say what conditions it demands to assure its security. If it does not want peace, there is no point in just conducting talks.

[Be'er] Are you optimistic about the chances for peace?

[Abu-Sharif] I foresee negotiations starting faster than most people think. According to the information I have, President Bush will very soon invite the parties, probably to Washington, and whoever does not accept will do so at his own risk. I believe that Bush is serious and constructive.

[Be'er] In your view, will the peace process fail in the long run?

[Abu-Sharif] I can say one thing with certainty: The status quo in the Middle East cannot last for long. There will be radicalization and increased violence. The situation will become worse than the Gulf crisis was. We maintain that the Palestinian problem is the core problem of the Middle East, and those who do not think that it does not have to be resolved are deluding themselves. We are the bridge between Israel and the Middle East. Without us, Israel will never succeed in becoming part of the region. Do you believe that King Fahd can reach an agreement with Israel before we reach such an accord? Of course not. The only country that was capable of doing that was Egypt, which had the ability to cut itself off from the region as Al-Sadat did. Who else could do such a thing? Fahd? Husayn?

[Be'er] If the process fails, will the PLO return to the "armed struggle?"

[Abu-Sharif] I do not believe that the peace process can fail, and I am a realist. Shamir is not God, and he is not eternal. He cannot prevent the process from taking place. He will be replaced by people to whom the future of Israel is important. If Israel sticks to the status quo, the intifadah will continue. Who will return to the idea of armed struggle? The PLO? The resolution adopted by the Palestine National Council in Algiers in 1988 (recognition of two states and abandoning terror) was a strategic decision. We are not children. Before that decision by our parliament, Article I was also published, as well as discussions at all levels. The resolution was adopted by a majority of 87 percent. We have a strategy, that the search for peace cannot cease.

[Be'er] In your address to the [Rome] conference, you did not refer to "the right of return" at all.

[Abu-Sharif] I was born in Jerusalem and lost my right to return to the territories because I was living in Beirut in 1967. I do not understand why Dr. Yaqobson (a Citizens Rights Movement member who participated in the conference) has the right to visit his family, and I do not. Why does my brother have the right to choose who represents him, and I do not? On the matter of the refugees of 1948, let us not cross that bridge until we come to it. These are details which we will work on in the future. The Palestinian state will be set up alongside Israel, in the 1967 borders. If there are Israelis who want to live in Ramallah or Bethlehem, they are welcome to do so, but the basic question is whether Israelis in general want peace. If they are ready to make peace, then all the problems can be solved later. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians dispersed around the world will not want to return. Many people who come from Ramallah, Bethlehem, Bayt Jala, and Bayt Sahur have been living abroad for generations. Many of them do not even speak Arabic. Some are very rich. Do you think all of them will want to return?

[Be'er] But will many people from the refugee camps return?

[Abu-Sharif] We will prepare plans and development projects for them. When we have an independent state on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, we will arrange land and industrial plants for them.

[Be'er] In the territories, there are currently several armed bands which fire at soldiers and settlers. Does the PLO control those bands?

[Abu-Sharif] Shamir knows as well as I do that we have a great deal of weapons there, but our instructions are not to use the arms, because we know that a decision to use them is childish—why should we give Shamir an excuse to kill more of us? I know that there are cases where armed squads use their weapons. I do not justify it, but it happens. From my point of view, if somebody were to kill my son, I could not be expected to go on with life as usual.

[Be'er] What is your view about the latest battles between Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in Nabulus? In the territories, they now say that the masked men cause greater harm than Israeli soldiers do.

[Abu-Sharif] The events in Nabulus have come to an end. It is our bad luck that they involved some slightly childish types. I hope that those youngsters, whom I do not know, will understand that none of us has the right to play with the intifadah. In Nabulus, we have already solved the problems between the camps, but I am realistic—there might be more such childish tensions. You also had such problems between the "Irgun" and the "Hagana" at the time [before Israel's establishment] (Abu-Sharif says the names of the organizations in Hebrew).

[Be'er] Do you have daily contacts with the Fatah activists in Nabulus?

[Abu-Sharif] Of course, daily contacts. 'Arafat has already transmitted instructions to stop the clashes there.

[Be'er] What are current relations between the PLO abroad and locally? We hear a lot of criticism of the overseas activists from the activists in the field. Is it not true that the activists in the territories have become stronger?

[Abu-Sharif] That is a mistake made by a lot of Israelis. There is no such thing as an internal and external PLO. Fatah is Fatah, internal and external, just like the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine is the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, inside and outside. Each organization is homogeneous; part of it is under occupation and part is situated outside the occupation.

[Be'er] But you and your colleagues did not pay the price of the intifadah like the 70,000 residents of the territories who were detained.

[Abu-Sharif] Who told you that? We were not arrested by the Israelis, but that does not mean that we were not arrested in the Arab states, where it is sometimes much more serious. Although there is no intifadah in the Arab states, the condition of the Palestinians living in the territories is in some ways better than their situation outside. For instance, the Palestinians in Burg al-Barajinah during the [Lebanon] war, or in Beirut, or in Sabra and Shatila. It is true that there is a difference between the Palestinians living under the Israeli occupation and those living in Tunis, but everywhere their situation is not good. That is why I want my own country.

[Be'er] What is your view on the fabricated interview between IDF Radio and Schwarzkopf, which the PLO recently published?

[Abu-Sharif] The truth is that we received from the territories the text of an interview Schwarzkopf allegedly gave to IDF Radio, and we sent it to our people in

Washington for them to check. There it was translated and distributed. We have monitors in the territories who listen to IDF Radio, and they sent us the material. We are now checking where exactly our people got the report from.

[Be'er] How does the PLO cope with the economic difficulties the Gulf crisis caused it?

[Abu-Sharif] We have taken serious steps. We have decided on a 30-percent cut in the organization's budget. Most of us fly economy class and not business class. There are no longer extravagances.

[Be'er] There are countries which have already renewed economic aid to the PLO.

[Abu-Sharif] Yes, some countries continue to help us, but not the Gulf states.

[Be'er] What does the PLO say to the Israeli Arabs? How are they meant to behave during the intifadah?

[Abu-Sharif] Israeli Arabs are citizens of the State of Israel, and they have an important role to play in the Israeli peace movement. They have the ability to influence the system, but we do not tell them what to do. They do what they believe is right; in other words, they try to exert influence through democratic means.

[Be'er] In the past you were asked to use your contacts to locate and return Israeli POW's who were captured in Lebanon. What is the current position on that?

[Abu-Sharif] We are investing great efforts to find the Israeli POW's. This is a very complex affair, because Lebanon is involved. Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi is our liaison for our contacts with Israel on that. The minute we have new information, we will inform Dr. al-Tibi.

Al-Tibi Authorized To Coordinate Prisoners Issue

TA2606172991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Bassam Abu-Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, said today that the PLO has authorized Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi to follow up and coordinate the issue of the prisoners, hostages, and Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails. Our correspondent adds that Dr. al-Tibi returned recently from a visit to Rome where he held talks with Professor Karen Brutents, Soviet President Gorbachev's adviser on Middle Eastern affairs and CPSU Central Committee member, on the peace process.

6,000 Soviet Immigrants Airlifted Since 27 Jun

TA2906192291 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1805 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Approximately 6,000 new immigrants from the USSR arrived in Israel between Thursday night and this evening. Dozens of aircraft were deployed in the airlift, and the Jewish Agency says that another 22 flights transporting more than 2,000 new immigrants are expected in Israel overnight.

A record number of new immigrants—more than 2,500—is expected tomorrow. They are leaving the Soviet Union just before the new passport law goes into effect.

Ministry Denies Moda'i Has Contingency Plan

TA2706140091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Jun 91 p A2

[Report by Tzvi Zerahya]

[Excerpts] There was some confusion among the Treasury top brass following Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i's declarations regarding the contingency plan drafted for the eventuality that Israel would be denied the $10 billion loan guarantees required for immigrant absorption.

Very senior sources in the ministry noted yesterday that to the best of their knowledge, no decision had been made and no meetings on the matter were held with the senior officials who were supposed to participate in such talks. They pointed out that, in effect, there is no alternative plan and that the only solution is to receive the loan guarantees from the United States, because only this will permit the optimal absorption of immigrants. They also said they have no idea what Moda'i had in mind when he mentioned the contingency plan. [passage omitted]

Government sources noted yesterday that beyond the economic aspect, the minister's remarks bear a political message: to bring it home to the United States that Israel needs it, but not at all costs. It was explained that Israel appreciates the U.S. aid but that this does not conflict with its desire for operational independence.

Sources at the prime minister's bureau said yesterday that they believe the guarantees will ultimately be given, so there will be no need for Moda'i's contingency plan.

Labor Doves Present Alternative Platform

TA2406101491 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jun 91 p 10

[Report by Michal Yudelman]

[Text] The leaders of Labor's dovish Mashov Circle yesterday unveiled an alternative political program they hope will replace the party's "outmoded, irrelevant and degenerate" ideas.

They told a news conference Labor needed principles suited to the end of the century before its next convention. One aim was to save the party's health, social and labor institutions, which would collapse unless they are reformed.

"At a certain stage the party fell in love with its institutions and turned them into values, said Mashov chairman Yosi Beilin. "I think Labor has become too conservative. It definitely needs shaking up and a new concept of its socialism."

Speakers said both party chairman Shim'on Peres and his arch-rival Yitzhaq Rabin should step aside.

But they stressed their support for open primaries so that party members and supporters could elect a party leader of their choice.

Avraham Burg said most Labor principles were passe, irrelevant or degenerate and it was "a life and death struggle for the party" to replace them.

Burg gave a list of essential "separations"—the state from religion, the territories from Israel, Histadrut membership from party and Kupat Holim [sick fund] membership, and the Histadrut from its holding company Hevrat Ovdim.

Yuval Qam said peace must be the first and foremost aim of the party. Unlike the ruling Likud, Labor must be ready to talk to any representative the Palestinians chose.

[A related report by Ilan Shehori on page A5 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 24 June adds: "Presenting Mashov's political alternative, Qam said that the Mashov Circle does not object to the establishment of a Palestinian state, whose first step would be a unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.]

["With regard to the territories, the members of Mashov believe that the Gulf war has proven that geographic territory is of no strategic value," Qam said.]

[" 'To those who are apprehensive about giving back territory, we propose that a defense pact be signed with the United States, which would give us security guarantees in the event that the peace treaty is violated,' Qam added."]

Mashov leaders said Labor must abandon the red flag and Internationale which are not an integral part of the party and might alienate new Soviet immigrants.

Defense Ministry Sources Detail Deployment Plan

NC2806115191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Sources close to the Defense Ministry have said that the Army is ready to deploy in Sidon according to plan. The deployment areas and participating forces, weapons, and brigades have been determined. The 1st Brigade, with its full complement of men and equipment, which is currently in the south; the 9th Brigade; and parts of the 2d, 3d, 6th, 8th, and 12th Brigades will participate. The total force will consist of 12,000 troops, half to implement the deployment plan and the remainder to be placed in a state of readiness so they can immediately come to the others' aid if the need arises. Three regiments consisting of 2,500 troops have also been placed in a state of readiness to help if necessary. The force will be commanded by Brigadier General Qasim Siblini, commander of the south. The Army's brigades will be placed on full alert on the night of 28-29 June, 48 hours before the deployment begins.

The Army will deploy in the city of Sidon and throughout its eastern suburbs as well as in part of Iqlim al-Tuffah to complete the earlier deployment. Army units will leave for al-Zahrani, al-Nabatiyah, and Tyre to reinforce earlier deployment in those areas.

According to several reports, the plan includes the direct transfer to the Army of Nasirite Popular Organization [NPO] positions in some major areas, particularly at the Sayniq and al-Awwali Bridges, to the Army. The NPO will directly hand over its checkpoints to the Lebanese Army but will keep its position at the entrance of [NPO leader] Engineer Mustafa Sa'd's residence. The Islamic Group positions at the (al-Qayya'ah) and Karkha triangle and positions held by all groups along the entire length of the South Lebanese Army front are also to be handed over.

Dallul Returns From Syria With 'Full Support'

NC2806123191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Our political correspondent has learned that Minister of Agriculture Muhsin Dallul has returned from Damascus after securing Syria's full support for the Cabinet's decision to deploy the Army in Sidon and its suburbs. Syria has also expressed its readiness to support any measures the Lebanese authorities take in carrying out the deployment.

Our correspondent adds that Syria has informed the Palestinian factions that the Lebanese Government's decision will be implemented without any preconditions on anyone's part.

Clashes on Kafr Falus Front; Sidon Shelled

NC2806161391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1558 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Clashes have broken out on the Kafr Falus-Lib'a-'Ayn al-Mir front between the Popular Liberation Army, also known as the Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd forces, and agent Antoine Lahd's militia [South Lebanese Army]. Shells have fallen beyond the contact lines and some of them have crashed in residential quarters in Sidon, specifically on the eastern boulevard and in the areas of al- Qayya'ah and Old Sidon. Two people have been killed and eight wounded in Sidon as a result.

Residential Area Under 'Indiscriminate' Shelling

NC2806165891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] This afternoon residential areas in Jazzin came under indiscrimate shelling originating from artillery emplacements and rocket launchers in Tallat Sharhabil, Karkha, and al-Saliyihah. This caused the Kafr Falus-Lib'a-'Ayn al-Mir front to flare up. Violent clashes are currently taking place on that front, where rockets and artillery are being used. Some shells have fallen in Sidon.

In view of this bombardment, the big question arises: Is this the Palestinian reply to the Army's deployment? The obvious answer is that the party harmed from the deployment operation seeks to inflame the security situation trying to obstruct the deployment operation and create a difficult situation for the Lebanese Government.

Deployment Removes 'Pretext' for Israeli Presence

NC2906093591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has met with Milhim Karam, chairman of the editors association. Regarding the possibility that the Army might deploy in the Sidon district without some parties' approval and without the Palestinians' withdawal, Minister Buwayz said that all the conditions of the past have changed. He said that the population in the south wants the government and the government alone. The parties which formerly allied with the Palestinians have entered the government, and they now support extending the state's authority and deploying the Army. The Soviet Union does not support military privileges for the Palestinians in the south, nor do the Arab States. I think the Palestinians will take these facts into consideration when they make their calculations.

Minister Buwayz maintained that the Palestinian weapons that are in the south cannot reach Palestine and only have effect within Lebanese territory. Palestinian weapons cannot defend the camps against sophisticated Israeli weapons. If the Palestinians think that they need to defend their camps against local forces or against the

Lebanese, they should remember that they lived in Lebanon in peace for 30 years before they brought their weapons here.

Regarding the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425, Minister Buwayz noted that it does not impose any conditions on Lebanon. He said: Without any urgency on our part, we are eliminating the conditions Israel has been using to justify its involvement in Lebanon, and, with the dispatch of a strong and capable Army to the south, the last pretext will be removed.

Asked whether the president of the Republic will discuss Resolution 425 in Washington and at the United Nations, Buwayz said: When the Army has completely and effectively deployed in the south, the president will raise the question of implementing Resolution 425 at the highest levels.

Further on Sidon Shelling

NC2906080291 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] A Nasirite Popular Organization [NPO] source has reported that Israeli artillery has bombarded Popular Liberation Army [PLA] positions with long-range projectiles and that the PLA artillery has retaliated appropriately.

The source added that the opposing positions clashed violently using various types of weapons, and at 1800 yesterday, Israel escalated the shelling by bombarding Sidon's residential areas with 155-mm field shells.

In another development, the South Lebanese Army's [SLA] Middle East Television broadcast a warning that if Jazzin City is shelled they will retaliate with a violent, concentrated bombardment of Sidon and its suburbs.

The television report said yesterday's shelling of Sidon was in retaliation for the 107- and 122-mm Grad rockets that fell on Jazzin and its surrounding area.

An SLA source expressed the hope that the Lebanese Army would be able to control the situation and silence the Palestinian fire. The source warned of unpredictable dangers.

Al-Murr Reports Army Units on 'Maximum Alert'

NC2906062091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] In a telephone interview we held with Minister Muhsin Dallul in Riyaq a short time ago, Dallul said the military escalation east of Sidon was a desperate attempt to obstruct the Army's deployment and stressed that the deployment will take place as scheduled.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Michel al-Murr has affirmed that the Army command has placed all Lebanese Army units on maximum alert and has ordered them to use force if anyone attacks the troops as they deploy. He affirmed that the Army will be in the south on 1 July and that the decision on its deployment stands firm and will be implemented no matter what the cost. He noted that some Palestinian groups have established certain conditions, while others have responded positively.

Lahd: Jazzin-Sidon Road Not To Be Reopened

NC2906070291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] In a statement to AL-NAHAR, South Lebanese Army Commander Major General Antoine Lahd has said that he will not reopen the Jazzin-Kafr Falus-Sidon road, even if the Army is deployed, because he fears attacks on the citizens in Sidon and its suburbs.

Palestinians Urged To Facilitate Deployment

NC2906081191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Minister Muhammad Baydun has called on the Palestinians to facilitate the Army deployment in the south. He told them that the south has given much to the Palestinian cause and that this offering will be greater if the legitimate authorities are able to establish their control.

In an interview with the Voice of Lebanon Radio, Baydun said Israel is working to cause disagreement between the Army and the Palestinians. He said: Escalation will not frighten us, and the legitimate authorities will extend their power over all Lebanese territory. He ruled out the possibility of further escalation in the south and said that the solution must cover all of that area so it will not be the scene of setbacks which return us to the conditions of the past.

Army Continues Preparation for Deployment in South

NC2906085991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Military preparations for the 1 July Lebanese Army deployment in Sidon and its eastern suburbs are continuing. An Army unit is now assembling in the Jadra area, and trucks carrying arms and ammunition headed for Sidon this morning.

Lahd Says Forces Will Not Attack Deploying Army

NC2906110591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Agent Antoine Lahd, commander of the border strip militia, has said that his forces on the Kafr Falus front will not open fire at the Lebanese Army. He added that he will only negotiate with the Lebanese Government at its request and if the talks are held openly on Lebanese territory.

In a statement to AL-NAHAR, he said that he will not reopen the Jazzin-Kafr Falus-Sidon road even if the Army is deployed, because he fears attacks on the citizens in Sidon and its suburbs.

Lahd revealed that he had asked the Israeli Air Force to attack Palestinian positions in Iqlim al-Tuffah to facilitate the Lebanese Army's deployment. He accused the state of violating the truce agreement with Israel, which he considers dead. He asked: How can politicians demand UN Resolution 425's implementation and ignore Resolution 426, which deals with precisely this process?

Agreement Reportedly Reached With Palestinians

NC2906152091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] In a telephone conversation with the Voice of Lebanon, Minister Muhsin Dallul, who will visit Damascus today for talks with Syrian officials, has described the escalation of the situation in the area east Sidon as a desperate attempt to hamper the Army's deployment. Dallul is also contacting the pro-Syria Palestinian groups.

Yesterday, Minister Dallul met with mediator Muhsin Ibrahim, who briefed him on the stand of the Palestinian leadership in Tunis. It is known that the PLO insists on starting political negotiations with the Lebanese Government or, at least, on having a pledge made publicly to start negotiations.

An agreement was reached during the talks Minister Dallul and Major General Nabih Farhat held with the Sidon and Palestinian sides.

Our political correspondent said that Dallul and Farhat secured promises that the Palestinian positions southeast of Sidon will be removed, that all the offices of armed groups in Sidon will be closed, and that all armed manifestations will be removed. It has also been agreed that the Lebanese Army and the legitimate forces will have absolute security authority as this will facilitate the legitimate authority's entry into Sidon.

In return, our correspondent added, Minister Dallul pledged to organize the presence of the Palestinian civilians and to grant the Palestinians the same rights as the Lebanese have to live and work. As for the protection of the security of the camps' and their inhabitants, the Lebanese state will be responsible for this just as it is responsible for protecting the Lebanese.

Minister Dallul has obtained the approval of the Palestinians, influential Sidon figures, and the Islamic group of this agreement.

It has been learned that Minister Dallul informed the Palestinian side that the Lebanese Government will decide on holding political negotiations following the Army's deployment.

An agreement has also been reached on lowering tensions on the Kafr Falus front, and should the confrontations resume, the Lebanese Army will undertake its responsibilities in this regard.

Karami Comments After Meeting U.S. Officials

NC2906145491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Excerpts] A U.S. delegation comprising Frederick Vreeland, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Middle Eastern and North African affairs; and Theodore Kattouf, head of the Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan desk at the State Department, arrived in Beirut from Damascus today. The delegation, accompanied by U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Ryan Crocker, held separate meetings with Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and President Ilyas al-Hirawi. Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz joined the meeting between President al-Hirawi and the U.S. delegation. President al-Hirawi hosted a luncheon for the delegation. [passage omitted]

After his meeting with the U.S. delegation, Prime Minister Karami said: We consider the visit by the U.S. officials to be an important event, because it is the first time senior U.S. officials have been allowed to visit Lebanon. The talks dealt with the Lebanese situation. The mere visit affirms U.S. interest in supporting the peace process in Lebanon. The talks also dealt with the issue of south Lebanon, the international fund, and implementing the al-Ta'if accord in letter and spirit.

Karami also said: Our views on all issues discussed were in agreement. He pointed out that the U.S. party wants the al-Ta'if accord to be implemented. He said the United States supports Lebanon on all levels so it may achieve its sovereignty and independence and rebuild its economy so it can absorb the Lebanese returnees, who want to contribute to its reconstruction and to reviving its economy.

Responding to a question, Karami said that the discussions on south Lebanon were general. He noted that the Americans are following the implementaiton of the al-Ta'if accord. He said: We raised the issue of implementing UN Security Council Resolution 425, as we are taking the first step, which must be met by international—and particularly U.S.—attention to implement this resolution.

Asked about the Lebanese-Syrian treaty and the questions that the U.S. officials are raising, Karami said: The talks dealt with the treaty. He said that there are active circles abroad, particularly in the United States, who are trying to distort the treaty. We explained to them that the treaty involves much less than the ties which prevailed between Lebanon and Syria prior to the treaty. We also explained to them that fear about independence and sovereignty is out of the question, because Syria has no ambitions in Lebanon. Syria has proven this throughout the past 16 years. Moreover, no Lebanese, official or nonofficial, suspects that the treaty infringes upon independence and sovereignty.

Responding to a question on the hostages issue, Karami said: We did not discuss this issue, because the U.S.

officials have come to support the accord process. We discussed aid and they will support the establishment of an international fund.

Asked about aid to the Army, Karami said: We did not discuss this issue and we are currently focusing on economic aid to rebuild the state because, in our view, independence, sovereignty, and the peace process cannot advance and continue unless we receive aid to stimulate the economy.

'Arafat, Others Comment on Army Deployment

NC2906183791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] There is only one sovereignty in Lebanon, that of the Lebanese state. We hope that the decision to deploy the Lebanese Army in south Lebanon will open the way to a Lebanese-Palestinian agreement to end the Israeli occupation. We will act positively on matters involving Lebanon's interests, stability, and sovereignty. These remarks were made by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat only 36 hours before the deployment of the Army into Sidon and the areas to its east and amid continuous efforts to remove all the obstacles facing that deployment.

What did the Palestinian president tell AFP?

'Arafat said that there is only one sovereignty in Lebanon, that of the Lebanese state. What threatens this sovereignty is the Israeli occupation of the Lebanese, Palestinian, and Arab territories.

'Arafat added that the political agreement being discussed by the Lebanese Government and the Palestinians is based on our belief that there is only one sovereignty in Lebanon, that of the Lebanese state.

'Arafat said: We want the decision to deploy the Lebanese Army in south Lebanon to open the door to a Lebanese-Palestinian agreement aimed at ending the Israeli occupation.

'Arafat said: I remind U.S. President George Bush that UN Security Council Resolution 425 calls for the full and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

'Arafat said that the Lebanese Army's deployment was never a bone of contention between us and the Lebanese Government. I have said before and I say again now that we will respond positively on matters involving Lebanon's interests, stability, and its sovereignty over its entire land.

This is what Yasir 'Arafat said.

A few hours before 'Arafat made these remarks, what did Zayd Wahbah, PLO representative in Lebanon, tell our radio?

Zayd Wahbah said: We have not declared war or defied the Lebanese Army. All our positions are positive and responsible. We have proved our goodwill when we cooperated with the Lebanese Army's deployment in Iqlim al-Tuffah and Tyre.

Zayd Wahbah added: We still have the same goodwill, but we have the right to call for a political dialogue about a political agreement to organize the Palestinian presence in Lebanon. We have political, civilian, and social rights that should be discussed on the highest levels between the Lebanese state and the PLO.

Wahbah said: Ignoring the Palestinian demands is bound to make the Palestinians in Lebanon fear for their future, their very existence, and their security.

Wahbah pointed out that the purpose of the Palestinian military positions is to defend the camps. The Palestinian official said that as long as no guarantees and agreements are reached concerning the protection of the camps and the Palestinian community, we will have to keep our ability to defend the camps.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Michel al-Murr said that the Lebanese state will not submit to any conditions made by the Palestinians in south Lebanon, where the Army is to deploy on Monday.

In an interview with AFP, al-Murr said that the Army will use force if anyone stands in its way. Al-Murr noted that some Palestinian groups have not yet given any positive answer and are making certain conditions.

Army Continues Preparation for Deployment

NC3006054191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] An Army force armed with heavy cannons has assembled in the Jadra area in preparation for its deployment. Several Army convoys have passed through Sidon toward the al-Zahrani assembly point. The most recent convoy passed yesterday morning and consisted of 47 tanks and six trucks loaded with equipment and ammunition.

The Army will be deployed in three areas: the first in Sidon, the second in Sidon's environs and adjacent villages, and the third in the villages east of Sidon up to the Kafr Falus front lines.

NPO To Relinquish Positions

NC3006055991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization [NPO], has met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al- Halim Khaddam in Damascus. Sa'd reiterated that he welcomes the Army deployment and said that the NPO will relinquish its positions to the Lebanese Army. He called on the Palestinians to respond positively, to consider Lebanon's internal situation and avoid getting bogged down in its quagmire, and to refrain from any behavior that gives Israel an opportunity to attack our people.

Before he left Damascus, Sa'd called for delaying the Lebanese Army deployment in the south, and, after returning to Sidon, he briefed a Fatah delegation led by Zayd Wahbah on the results of his meeting with Khaddam.

Speaker Calls For Palestinian Cooperation

NC3006071491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 Jul 91

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has affirmed that the Army's deployment in the south is the important issue right now. He said this move is essential for implementing UN resolutions in the south to solve the Lebanese crisis, regaining our sovereignty and independence, and spreading the state's authority over all Lebanese territory.

In a statement following a meeting last night with President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Speaker al-Husayni said sending the Lebanese Army to the south is an important decision that is genuinely supported by the international community and the Arab states, especially the close sister Syria.

Speaker al-Husayni said that all the Israeli officials' negative statements go against the general international trend of solving regional disputes and implementing UN resolutions to strengthen world peace and security.

Answering a question about the Army's deployment in the south, Speaker al-Husayni said: It is my duty to advise everyone, particularly our Palestinian brothers, that we cannot delay the implementation of this decision. He added: During the process of achieving national accord and restoring normalcy in Lebanon we used force against the Lebanese who attempted to hinder this effort. He said that in view of our commitment to the Palestinian cause and Arab solidarity, our brother Palestinians are duty bound to facilitate the deployment.

Islamic Group Refuses To Quit Positions

NC3006071791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] The Islamic Group has announced that its military positions will remain on the Kafr Falus front and will continue to shoulder the burdens of resistance until the occupation forces and [South Lebanese Army] militiamen have completely withdrawn from the area. A statement issued by the group said that, after the Army has deployed in Sidon, it will be natural for it to guarantee the supply lines of the Islamic and national resistance, whose forces are deployed along the Kafr Falus front.

Al-Murr: Deployment To Proceed 'Regardless'

JN3006150291 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Michel al-Murr by Suhayl Khuri; date and place not given—recorded]

[Khuri] Mr. al-Murr, how far along is the second security plan in Lebanon?

[Al-Murr] The military deployment plan in the south is proceeding smoothly. On Monday, 1 July, deployment will take place regardless. A Cabinet decision was made setting forth details of the second phase of deployment in the south. The decision will be enforced regardless of the reaction of this or that party. That is the bottom line.

[Khuri] Mr. al-Murr: Some forces are on record as saying they will not surrender their weapons to the government. How do you plan to respond?

[Al-Murr] The government decision will be implemented. We hope the parties concerned heard what we said yesterday. We said that if the Cabinet decision is honored by the Lebanese, then all forces stationed on Lebanese soil must comply. It is hoped they will oblige of their own free will; otherwise, we have no choice but to resort to force.

[Khuri] What is the state of the dialogue with the PLO?

[Al-Murr] We will go ahead with the deployment. As for dialogue, this is up to the Cabinet. Next Wednesday's Cabinet session will take up the matter, but deployment will take place Monday, 1 July.

[Khuri] Do you expect a new agreement to be reached with the PLO?

[Al-Murr] We are carrying out a Cabinet decision calling for military deployment. As I have just said, it is for the Council of Ministers to decide on political and diplomatic matters. They will consider the issue on Wednesday, 3 July. I do not want to give a premature judgment on a political or diplomatic dialogue.

[Khuri] And what has happened to the Fund for the Reconstruction of Lebanon?

[Al-Murr] The signs are that all of the Arab states with the means to contribute to the fund are disposed to go about it without delay. We hope the fund will be launched in early fall.

[Khuri] Thanks to Lebanon's Defense Minister Michel al-Murr.

[Al-Murr] Thanks to you.

Dallul: Army Deployment 'Will Not Be Postponed'

NC3006122291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul has stressed that the Army deployment in the south tomorrow will not be postponed. He said that if it were delayed, the government would lose its credibility. He told the Voice of Lebanon that if a Lebanese- Palestinian dialogue is abruptly arranged, it will fail. He noted that no group will have bases or arms in the area where the Army is to be deployed. He stressed that Syria supports Lebanon in

this endeavor and that Syria will support the Lebanese Government in confronting any obstacles or hurdles. He also said that the resistance will continue to do its duty until UN Resolution 425 has been implemented.

Dallul said that PLO mediator Muhsin Ibrahim visited him in al- Biqa' twice yesterday and conveyed to him a positive Palestinian position manifest by a statement by leader Yasir 'Arafat. He said that Ibrahim offered to meet before the deployment to cool the situation down. Dallul responded that the Cabinet may meet tomorrow and may approve of such a meeting. Dallul said that he and Major General Nabih Farhat are entrusted with facilitating the deployment in Sidon and areas to its east. He said his only task is to contact all parties to enable the Army to carry out the deployment.

PLO's Wahbah Rules Out 'Showdown' With Army

NC3006123191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] PLO representative in Lebanon Zayd Wahbah has said that he does not believe there will be a showdown between the Lebanese Army and the Palestinians. He said that if the Palestinians are disarmed, there will be no arms left to resist the American-Zionist plan.

Wahbah criticized the remarks by some Lebanese officials who have threatened to use force. He said that these threats should be directed against the Israeli enemy and not toward the camps, which are trying to ensure their security and legitimate rights as a Palestinian community.

Israeli Forces Reinforce Positions in Jazzin

NC3006124791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces have deployed vehicles and personnel in forward positions in Jazzin and have reinforced the Batir-Jazzin crossing.

In western al-Biqa', the Israeli occupation forces and the Lahd militia [South Lebanese Army] have taken up combat positions in Tallat al-Ahmadiyah opposite the Jisr al-Dallafah and Maysadun hills.

Army Units Begin Deployment in Sidon

NC0107054691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] At dawn today, Lebanese Army units crossed Jisr al-Awwali and took over both of Sidon's northern entrances. The Army units also took up positions near Dar al-Mu'allimin and on Sidon's eastern boulevard in implementation of the deployment in Sidon, its suburbs, and Kafr Falus.

Our correspondent in the south has reported that armed gunmen belonging to the Nasirite Popular Organization and the Islamic forces have vacated all their Sidon positions, including the Jisr al-Awwali checkpoint. Internal security forces have taken over the al-Qanayah checkpoint.

The deployment process was carried out in three areas. Army units took over the al-Awwali checkpoint at 0400 today, and another force left Zughayb barracks and took up positions on the Amirikan circle. Army forces are currently advancing from al-Zahrani toward Jisr Sayniq.

Our correspondent reported a short while ago that an Army battalion left for Sidon's eastern boulevard at 0645, crossed the Ilya circle, and took over the al-Qanayah circle. Another battalion has entered Majdalyun and is now ready to advance toward Lib'a.

PLO Official Says Palestinians To Keep Weapons

NC0107065191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] The Lebanese Army deployment is proceeding despite the objection voiced by Lieutenant Kamal Midhat, the PLO official in charge of security. He said that the Palestinians in the south have decided to keep their rifles and accused the United States of seeking to remove the Palestinians from the south. He said: Our people have decided to defend their rifles and not capitulate. He appealed to the Lebanese Army officers and soldiers to make sure their records would not indicate that they helped fulfill America's wish to disarm the Palestinians and the Lebanese.

Following the Lebanese-Palestinian military meeting in Sidon yesterday, Midhat said that the Palestinian delegation informed Major General Nabih Farhat and the other conferees that the Palestinian fighters were instructed to greet the Lebanese Army by placing a white rose in their rifle barrels.

Army Deployment Continues in South

NC0107064491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Excerpt] After deploying in Sidon at 0625 today, Army units started to move toward the eastern suburbs. The 9th Brigade's 4th Battalion took up positions near the 'Assaf hospital in 'Abra at 0730, and two companies from the same battalion deployed to the western entrance of al-Salihiyah at 0815.

The Lebanese Army has tightened its control of Sidon, and hundreds of troops supported by armored cars deployed to the town's northern entrance near Jisr al-Awwali and the southern entrance near Jisr Sayniq. The Sidon deployment covered al-Awwali, Dar al-Mu'allimin, Sayniq, al-Furn al-'Arabi, the Saudi Bank, Dawwar al- Yaman and Tallat Mar Ilyas, which the Army took over a few days ago.

The Nasirite Popular Organization [NPO] forces have gathered their miliary vehicles at points agreed upon

with the Army command and are continuing their withdrawal. The NPO relinquished its positions in several areas, including al-Qanayah.

Our security correspondent said that all the NPO positions are manned by four gunmen commanded by a sergeant and that the positions will be handed over to the Army within three or four days.

Major Nabil Ghayyad, commander of the 9th Brigade's 94th Battalion, said the battalion will deploy in areas east of Sidon as far as Lib'a. He added: We hope that legitimate government authority will return to all Lebanese areas, particularly those under Israeli occupation.

Citing security sources, REUTER said the Palestinians will withdraw from their forward positions east of Sidon, but they will keep their positions in the villages overlooking 'Ayn al-Hulwah and the al-Miyah-wa-Miyah camps.

President Ilyas al-Hirawi has been closely following the Army deployment since this morning. The president has contacted the commander of the southern military region, who said the deployment is not encountering any obstacles.

Meanwhile, Minister Nazih al-Bizri has told our station that the deployment is being implemented in a positive atmosphere and faces no obstacles. He said the process was guaranteed. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Issues Statement on Deployment

NC0107092891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Statement issued by Defense Minister Michel al-Murr on 1 July—read by announcer]

[Text] In implementation of the Cabinet decision providing for the Army deployment in the south, Army units began entering Sidon and its eastern suburbs as of 0500 today. The deployment has proceeded without any obstacles and will be completed on time. The people have given their Army a warm welcome, showering the soldiers with flowers and basil.

I thank all the key figures and organizations which have responded favorably to the deployment process. I extend greetings and appreciation to the units—commanders, officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers—who implemented the operation.

Resistance to Army Deployment Reported

NC0107100691 Paris AFP in English 0858 GMT 1 July 91

[Excerpt] Sidon, Lebanon, July 1 (AFP)—Around 3,000 Lebanese government troops entered Sidon in a peaceful take-over Monday from a Sunni Moslem militia that had held the southern port city for the last six years.

The deployment was part of the Syrian-backed government's efforts to reassert its authority over the country, under the terms of a 1989 Arab peace plan that has already seen calm return to Beirut after 16 years of war.

But Palestinian fighters and Lebanese fundamentalists Monday halted the Army's advance east of Sidon, toward the Kafr Falus front where the two groups face Israeli-backed militiamen who control a border strip in the south.

A senior Israeli official, Uri Lubrani, said meanwhile there would be "no change" in his country's position until the Lebanese Army had disarmed the anti-Israeli fighters in southern Lebanon.

Government troops in armoured vehicles took over the main entrances to Sidon and hoisted the Lebanese flag, minutes after militiamen of the Popular Nasirite Organisation (PNO) [NPO] had evacuated their posts.

They also took up positions in the port, the seafront fort and all the main roads and intersections.

Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the PNO [NPO], which had controlled Sidon since a partial Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon in 1985, assured President Ilyas al-Hirawi on Sunday of his support for the Army's deployment.

Mr. Saad had returned Saturday from a visit to Damascus, which along with Washington has backed the government's efforts to extend its control over the south, where troops had already taken up positions near Sidon in April.

But Palestinian and Lebanese fundamentalist guerrillas were blocking access to Kafr Falus, while armed PLO fighters maintained checkpoints in and around Palestinian refugee camps on the outskirts of Sidon.

The PLO, which has around 10,000 fighters in the region, has demanded an accord with the government on the rights of the 350,000 Palestinians in Lebanon but said it would not oppose the Army's deployment.

It has however declined to cooperate, while the government says it will not negotiate with the PLO until after the deployment.

Armed fighters of the fundamentalist group Jamaa Islamiyaa [The Islamic Group], meanwhile, blocked an army convoy of around 20 vehicles on a road 10 kilometres (six miles) to the east of Sidon.

Lebanese officers were holding talks with Jamaa [Group] military officials, who said they had not received orders from their leadership to evacuate. "The Army is welcome to come and fight Israel," one official said.

Jamaa Islamiyaa [Islamic Group] is part of a Lebanese-Palestinian coalition of secular and fundamentalist groups that has been fighting the Israeli presence in southern Lebanon since 1985. [passage omitted]

PLO's Wahbah Reiterates Need for Dialogue

NC0107102791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has asserted that the Army deployment on the front overlooking Iqlim al-Tuffah will be completed before the end of the day. Karami has been paying close attention to the deployment process through Brigadier General Yahya Ra'd, secretary general of the Higher Defense Council. The prime minister was also briefed on the deployment process by Defense Minister Michel al-Murr and Mustafa Sa'd.

Meanwhile, Zayd Wahbah, Fatah's representative in Lebanon, has said the Palestinians will not evacuate their positions before a political dialogue begins and an agreement to resolve all outstanding problems is worked out.

Commenting on remarks about the Palestinians' rejection of the deployment, Wahbah said that nobody is talking about the Israeli intransigence—as if the Palestinians have become an occupying force. Wahbah said: We are up against a U.S. plan and will work to prevent any repetition of the Sabra and Shatila massacres.

Roads Blocked; Israelis Monitor Deployment

NC0107103391 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Excerpts] REUTER has cited military sources in the south as saying that the Army has set a deadline of midday for anyone obstructing the Sidon deployment.

The Palestinians obstructed the Army's deployment when they closed off the areas under their control in east Sidon. The Palestinians prevented journalists from traveling on the roads leading to 'Ayn al-Dulb, al-Qurayyah, and Jinsnaya, where the PLO has bases and where the Lebanese Army plans to deploy. The Palestinians also blocked the roads to 'Ayn al-Hulwah and the al- Miyah-wa-Miyah camps with military vehicles equipped with heavy caliber machine guns . [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, an Israeli MK reconnaissance plane has been monitoring the deployment in Sidon and its suburbs since this morning.

Israeli Troops Take Positions on Kafr Falus Front

NC0107111991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] In keeping with the obstacles Israel has been raising against any step toward consolidating state authority in Lebanon, particularly today's Army deployment in the south, reports from the occupied border strip have indicated that an Israeli convoy consisting of 50 military vehicles and well over 350 troops and officers took up positions on the Kafr Falus front in Jazzin today.

Afghanistan

Party Leader Warns Against Links With Karmal

BK3006061891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0532 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Kabul, June 30 (AFP)—A leader of the ruling Watan (Homeland) Party has warned that members who link up with former Afghan President Babrak Karmal and stir up trouble would be punished.

Watan Deputy Chairman Farid Ahmed Mazdaq also told reporters here late Saturday that there was no panic within the party following Mr. Karmal's return 10 days ago after a five-year, virtual exile in the Soviet Union.

It was the first official confirmation of Mr. Karmal's quiet arrival here on June 20. The government has maintained official silence on his return.

"No doubt Karmal has certain fans. No doubt there are internal groups who will like to have a better position in the party," Mr. Mazdaq said, in a tacit admission of differences within the ruling party.

"But if certain groups want to launch activities in favour of Karmal, that would go against the interests of the state. Then they need to be punished," he said.

He was responding to a question whether the recent sacking of Mr. Karmal's brother, Mahmud Baryalai, from the post of deputy prime minister was a warning by President Najibullah that he would not tolerate potential "troublemakers" in the party.

Informed sources said Mr. Baryalai was removed after he distributed leaflets among party supporters announcing Mr. Karmal's return and urging them to go to the airport to give the former president a red carpet welcome.

Mr. Mazdaq denied this and said Mr. Baryalai's removal was "a preparatory measure taken by President Najibullah in consultation with the prime minister." He did not elaborate.

Neither Mr. Karmal nor Mr. Baryalai could be reached for comment.

Mr. Najibullah has said that Mr. Karmal would return to Afghanistan as an "ordinary citizen".

"We (the party) are indifferent to his (Mr. Karmal) coming back. We have come to realise that he is nothing other than an ordinary citizen," Mr. Mazdad said, echoing the president's words.

Mr. Mazdaq admitted to reporters in May that there were serious differences within the party but did not elaborate. Observers here interpreted his remarks as referring to the well-known split between the moderate and extremist factions.

Mr. Karmal became president of Afghanistan after the Soviet military invasion in 1979 but left for Moscow, ostensibly for health reasons, in 1986 when he was replaced by Mr. Najibullah.

Mr. Karmal, a party hardliner, and Mr. Najibullah were reported to have had a tense relationship during the former president's term in office.

"Mr. Karmal's case is a party affair. It is not a national matter. He cannot play any significant role in the future," Mr. Mazdaq said.

Swiss Minister Begins Bid for Afghan Peace Talks

BK0107103891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1027 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] Kabul, July 1 (AFP)—Swiss Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Klaus Jacobi met here Monday with opposition figures and prominent Afghans to pursue efforts to get an Afghan peace meeting under way, officials and diplomats said.

Details of the talks were not known, but diplomats believed they centred on the possibility of arranging a meeting between representatives of the Afghan Government and the mujahidin resistance groups fighting to topple it.

Diplomats said the idea was to hold the meeting in the form of Afghanistan's traditional Loya Jirgah, or Grand National Assembly, to be convened in Geneva.

"We believe that Switzerland, enjoying international prestige and known as a neutral country, could arrange a meeting of the Afghan groups," Afghan Foreign Ministry Spokesman Humayun Mukammel said.

Mr. Mukammel confirmed that "one of the major aspects of Mr. Jacobi's visit (was) to discuss ways of holding an intra-Afghan dialogue," and noted that he was the first senior European cabinet minister to visit Afghanistan in a decade.

"We are hopeful his visit will give a strong impetus to an intra-Afghan dialogue."

The diplomats said that after meeting Afghan President Najibullah on Tuesday, the Swiss minister was scheduled to follow up the talks in Pakistan, where the main guerrilla groups are based.

Mr. Jacobi arrived here Sunday with two Swiss experts on the Afghan issue.

Afghans he met Monday included Mohammad Asghar, president of the National Salvation Society, a body closely associated with former King Zahir Shah, who has lived in exile in Rome since the monarchy was toppled in 1973.

The peace process has so far been blocked by the failure of the Soviet-backed Afghan Government and the mujahidin groups, who are supported by the United States and Pakistan, to come to the negotiating table.

Mr. Najibullah's government has joined Washington, Islamabad and Moscow in supporting a United Nations peace plan to resolve the 12- year-old Afghan conflict. The plan calls for a cessation of hostilities and an end to arms supplies to both warring factions.

Some hardline mujahidin groups have asked for clarification of the proposals, however.

The plan also calls for a transitional period under an impartial body that would oversee free and fair elections, leading to the formation of a broad-based government.

Islamic Party Spokesman on 'Obstacle' of Talks

LD2706101791 Tehran IRNA in English 1748 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] Islamabad, June 25, IRNA—Visiting spokesman of the Tehran-based Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan said on Tuesday that no progress has been made yet to remove an obstacle which prevents his party to attend the sessions of a joint mojahedin commission discussing the Afghan issue .

Referring to his party's refusal to attend the opening session of the commission held in Peshawar last Thursday Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmatollah Mortazavi told IRNA: "The allocation of just two or three seats by the commission to our Shiite party was not enough comparing to the large Shiite population of Afghanistan and will not attend the session until we get at least five seats."

Mortazavi who had a private meeting with the leader of the Jamiat-e Eslami party of Afghanistan Borhanoddin Rabbani Monday refused to give details of issues which were discussed at the meeting. But it is believed the five-point plan proposed by UN secretary-general for the settlement of Afghanistan issue last month as well as a decision taken by Pakistan Foreign Ministry to form a joint commission in Islamabad comprising all Afghan mojahedin leaders and representatives were the major topics of his talks with Rabbani.

Meanwhile a group of Afghan immigrants and mojahedin from various parties called on Hojjat ol-Eslam Mortazavi Tuesday.

During a speech at the meeting the Deputy President of Political Commission of the Islamic Unity Party Hojjat ol-Eslam Akhlaqi while inviting Afghan mojahedin to consolidate their unity said: "We try to reach a rational solution so that we could end Afghan issue and it will not be possible without more coordination and unity among Afghan mojahedin groups."

Najibollah Receives SSR Foreign Minister

LD2706090491 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] The press office of the presidency reports that esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, received at presidency headquarters this afternoon His Excellency Kuliyev Avdy, minister of foreign affairs of the Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR], who is visiting our country at the head of a delegation. During the meeting, attended by Mohammad Ishaq Tokhi, aide to the president, Abdollah Bahar, deputy minister of foreign affairs, and Boris Pastukhov, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the Soviet Union in Kabul, esteemed Najibollah spoke about recent developments in Afghanistan, the circumstances of the implementation of national reconciliation policy, Afghanistan's support for the statement of the UN secretary general form the political solution of the Afghan problem, and the state's practical measures to attain intra-Afghan understanding. The esteemed president of Afghanistan noted the ancient and historic relations and links between Afghanistan and Turkmenistan, and considered the expansion of useful mutual cooperation in the economic, technical, cultural, and trade spheres, among them border trade and barter, in the interest of the two sides.

In response Kuliyev expressed pleasure at the development of the national reconciliation policy and praised the efforts of the Republic of Afghanistan for a political solution of the Afghan problem. He also emphasized the expansion of economic, cultural, and trade cooperation between Afghanistan and Turkmen SSR.

Forces Deal Golboddin 'Crushing Blows' in Ghowr

LD1906141191 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1330 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] A center of the extremist group of Golboddin [Hekmatyar] in Shahrak District of Ghowr Province was recently subjected to crushing blows by the armed forces. Clearing up operations have also been mounted in the area. The BAKHTAR military section reports: As a result of the blows a number of warmonger extremists were crushed and several positions, a large quantity of their arms and ammunition, were destroyed. One set of BM1, one DShK [12.7 mm machine gun], one Kalashnikov, and a large quantity of ammunition has been captured.

India

Further Reportage on Kidnapped Israeli Tourist

Army Searches for Kashmir Hostages

BK2906104591 Hong Kong AFP in English 1031 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Jammu, India, June 29 (AFP)—Indian security forces, reinforced by elite Army commandos, continued a massive search in Kashmir Saturday for an Israeli tourist and an Indian company executive held hostage by Moslem guerrillas.

Some 1,000 commandos trained in anti-guerrilla operations joined the search in Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital, and elsewhere in the troubled valley as a maximum security alert was sounded, officials said here.

As military helicopters flew overhead, army, police and paramilitary troops were combing the area in a village by village and house by house search in and around Srinagar, and in the south Kashmir districts of Pulwama, Pampore and Zevan.

By midday Saturday, the two-day-old search had resulted in the arrest of about 300 suspects for questioning, the officials in Kashmir's winter capital here said.

But no progress was reported in the efforts to trace either Ya'ir Yitzhaqi, 25, or K. Doraiswamy, 58.

Mr. Yitzhaqi, a tourist from Jerusalem, was kidnapped Thursday by the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) after he escaped an attempted mass abduction by a rival group of militants.

The botched kidnapping by men from the Pasdaran-i-Inquilabe-Islam sparked a gunfight which left one Israeli and two militants dead. The body of the slain Israeli, 22-year-old Erez Kahana, was flown Friday night to Bombay en route to Tel Aviv.

Mr. Yitzhaqi said in a telephone interview with an Indian journalist from an undisclosed hideout Friday that he was alive and well.

Mr. Doraiswamy, the Bombay-based executive director of the Indian Oil Corp., was kidnapped from Pampore Friday by five men who stormed a room where he was holding discussions with colleagues on a planned petroleum storage project.

Responsibility for his abduction was claimed by the Hizbul mujahidin, a militant group which, unlike the pro-independence JKLF, favours Kashmir's accession to Pakistan.

Hizbul spokesmen told reporters Saturday the group was holding Mr. Doraiswamy, who was abducted with just seven months left before retirement from his job.

Neither the JKLF nor the Hizbul mujahidin had set its terms for the release of the hostages.

Zipori Munshee, an Israeli consular official from Bombay, held talks with Kashmir administration officials in Srinagar Saturday and vowed to make "all efforts" to secure freedom for Mr. Yitzhaqi.

"If possible I will also try to meet underground leaders of the JKLF for his release," the official said.

The Israeli tourist is the third foreigner being held hostage by moslem militants, who are fighting the secession of Kashmir from India either to create an independent islamic state or to secure a merger with Pakistan.

Two Swedish engineers employed on a hydro-electric project in the district of Uri were kidnapped March 31 by the Muslim Jaanbaz Force (MJF), another of several militant groups active in the anti-Indian movement.

Swedish diplomat Mikael Westerlind has been camping since June 13 in Srinagar, where he has issued an appeal by Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson urging freedom for Olle Loman and Johan Jansson.

The appeal has had no effect on the kidnappers, who have demanded a visit to Kashmir by human rights observers from either the United Nations or London-based Amnesty International.

India has rejected the demand, and both the United Nations and Amnesty International have condemned the kidnapping.

Overnight Friday, two Moslem militants were killed in gunbattles with security forces in Kashmir, officials said. A civilian was also killed after being hit by stray bullets. Seven militants and two paramilitary soldiers were wounded.

At least seven people were injured Saturday and a bus damaged when a powerful bomb exploded at the main bus stand in Jammu.

Officials blamed the explosion on the militants, whose campaign for Kashmir's secession has left more than 2,500 people dead since January 1990.

India has accused Pakistan, which disputes Kashmir's ownership and holds the northern third of the state, of fanning violence. Islamabad denies the charges while voicing moral support for the secessionist campaign.

Missing Israeli Sends Letter

TA2906045191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Ya'ir Yitzhaqi, the Israeli tourist held by Kashmiri militants, has sent a letter to his family saying his captors are friendly people fighting for a cause. The letter was handwritten in broken English, and a copy of it was delivered to an international news agency.

Yitzhaqi, held by the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, writes of his captors: They do not hit me and gave me bread and tea. He said he had been taken to meet the chief of the militant group, whom he called a very kind person. His letter concludes: Yesterday I thought that all the Muslims here are murderers and terrorists, but now I know that the people here are fighting for freedom and do not kill citizens. I hope that they will give me to go soon. You can check the handwriting that all that I write is honest. Love you very much, Ya'ir.

World Asked To Condemn Kashmir Attack

BA2906043291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] India has called upon the international community to condemn the killing of an Israeli tourist and the abduction of another in Kashmir. An External Affairs Ministry statement in New Delhi said the news of the killing and the attempt to kidnap six tourists has been

received with a deep sense of outrage. The statement said the senseless and cowardly act of a misguided militant group has resulted in human tragedy.

Militants Offer To Release Israeli to UN

BK3006124291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1226 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Srinagar, India, June 30 (AFP)—Kashmiri militants holding a 25-year-old Israeli said Sunday they would release him only to the United Nations, while a rival group holding an Indian executive set a deadline for his execution.

The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) said in a brief press release here that they would free the Israeli, Ya'ir Yitzhaqi, only to representatives of the United Nations.

However a rival group, the Ikhwan-ul-Muslimeen, said they would kill K. Doraiswamy, an executive of the Indian Oil Corp. (IOC), if their demand for the release of three of their colleagues was not met within 24 hours.

The group, which formerly called itself the Jammu and Kashmir Students Liberation Front, claimed responsibility for the kidnapping and killing of a university vice chancellor in Kashmir last year.

An anonymous caller told reporters here, "the countdown (for Mr. Doraiswamy's execution) has begun. It expires at three p.m. (0930 GMT) Monday."

The group had earlier said Mr. Doraiswamy would be killed if security forces in Kashmir did not call off a massive hunt for the kidnappers which coincided with a house-to-house search in areas of Srinagar under rebel influence for Mr. Yitzhaqi.

Mr. Doraiswamy was kidnapped on the outskirts of Srinagar Friday afternoon as he was making an onsite inspection of a new gas storage facility.

Mr. Yitzhaqi was grabbed by the JKLF after he had slipped away from a gun battle that erupted between a group of eight Israeli tourists and a rival militant group during a botched kidnap attempt.

One Israeli and two militants died in the shootout and three Israelis were injured.

Meanwhile yet another secessionist group in the Moslem majority state on India's northern frontier with Pakistan said that one of two Swedish engineers they have been holding for three months had been injured.

The group said in a telephone call that one of the two men had been hurt "in the security crackdown" in Pulwama District, 80 kilometers (50 miles) from Srinagar.

The caller did not specify which of the two men, Jan Ole Loman or Johan Jansson, both engineers who had been working on a hydro-electricity project in the state, had been injured.

However he added that "he is out of danger."

The group holding the two Swedes, the Muslim Janbaz Force, has demanded that a U.N. team be flown to Kashmir to investigate alleged Indian security force atrocities against Kashmiris before they release the pair.

Neither the United Nations nor the Indian Government agreed to the request and the two have remained captive since they were kidnapped March 31, despite appeals for their release by Sweden's prime minister and other groups.

It was not immediately clear from the brief JKLF press release issued Sunday whether they meant that Mr. Yitzhaqi could be freed to members of the United Nations team resident in Srinagar, or whether they too were demanding the presence of a special investigative team.

The Israeli has said in telephone calls to journalists here that he is being well fed and well treated by the JKLF, and the group Saturday took photographers blindfolded to a hideout to take pictures of him.

Meanwhile in New Delhi state-run television reported that Israel was sending a senior officer to India sunday "for talks on the kidnapping."

No official comment on the broadcast was available from government officials in New Delhi, and Goira Becher of the Israeli consulate in Bombay declined comment on the television report.

A spokesman for the JKLF clarified later that the group was not making any special demand and said Mr. Yitzhaqi could be released to "any United Nations representative."

The spokesman added that the secessionist group did not see itself as a terrorist group and did not want to be seen as one.

Meanwhile an anonymous caller saying he was from the MJF [Muslim Janbaaz Force] clarified that the Swede who had been injured was Mr. Loman and added that his condition had deteriorated and was now "critical" because of loss of blood.

He said Mr. Loman had received two bullet wounds in the leg in an encounter with security forces in western Kashmir.

A Swedish Embassy spokesman said here that the news of Mr. Loman's injury had reached them but that few details were available.

Militant Interviewed on Release

TA0107130691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1205 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Report on telephone interview with Amanula Khan, the leader of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, in Karachi by Yitzhaq Feller on 30 June; Khan's speaks in English—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Feller] The organization I lead is the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front [JKLF], says Amanula Khan from his home in Karachi, the capital of Pakistan. We demand that the entire country be united and become independent.

[Khan] Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front. All states to be reunited and made an independent state.

[Feller] Our organization has branches in India, Kashmir, and Pakistan. We have large branches in Britain and in other European countries, and we also have a branch in the United States. [passage omitted]

I asked him if whether, as the man who headed the JKLF, we could count on his word that the Israeli held by his men in Kashmir would be released?

[Khan] Well I hope so, because the Indians make mischief. There may be some complications, but as I came to know it just half an hour ago that our boys over there say that they are releasing...

[Feller, translates and continues] the prisoner on the condition that a UN representative is there to receive him. I asked if the Israeli youth would indeed be released if a UN representative arrived.

[Khan] Definitely. You see, we always stand by our word. If a United Nations man comes there, naturally the boy will be released and that will be the end of it. But, we cannot trust the Indians. They will make mischief here and there.

[Feller, translates and continues] Amanula Khan also said that his organization wants to exploit the incident to gain some publicity.

[Khan] And there will be something we will want to tell the United Nations also.

[Feller, translates and continues] I asked him why they were holding the Israeli at all?

[Khan] Well, he was kidnapped by somebody else, and he was being beaten up by some people, you see, when he entered somebody's house. It came to the attention of our boys, and they went and rescued him.

[Feller, translates and continues] We are treating him well. This is our obligation according to our moral code. We have always behaved in this way, and so we shall continue to do so. We are human beings, and we adhere to strict moral standards in our organization. Amanula concluded by saying that I could tell the boy's worried parents that they were true Muslims, who care more about their morals than anything else. The boy could only be hurt if the Indians behave treacherously, as they have been known to do in the past. [passage omitted]

Israeli Tourist Safe in Kashmir

BK2906103891 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] In the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir, the missing Israeli tourist, who had been kidnapped by a militant group, is reported to be safe. The tourist, Mr. Ya'ir Yitzhaqi, spoke to some newspersons in Srinagar over the telephone.

Commentary Condemns Tourist Attack

BK0107114891 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Commentary by Harihar Swarup, bureau chief of PRESS TRUST OF INDIA]

[Text] Coming on the heels of the abduction of two Swedish engineers, the attack on Israeli tourists in Srinagar on Wednesday will strike a big blow to already depleted tourism in Kashmir valley. Already, the tourism industry which sustains the common man in the valley is on the verge of destruction. Perhaps by attacking foreign tourists, the militants want to hit the headlines in Western countries. Their aim could also be to increase the economic distress in the valley and thereby fan the secessionist movement. There is a need for the security forces to be more alert to put down this type of blatant assault on tourists to whichever country they might belong.

According to reports, a group of about a dozen heavily armed militants seized two houseboats in the Dal Lake where 40 foreigners were lodged, many of them Israelis. The militants left the place in two boats along with eight hostages; two women and six Israeli men. The militants managed to reach Sardar Kadal, a downtown locality on the banks of the picturesque lake. They let off the women after identification and asked the men to stand in a row. As they shot one of them, the remaining Israelis pounced upon the terrorists, snatched their rifles and began shooting. In the ensuing fight, one militant was killed and two injured. The militants fled the scene along with one hostage. The Israelis who escaped spent the night with a mullah and contacted the police in the morning.

The militant killed in the shoot-out belonged to a group which gets weapons, money and training from across the line of actual control. Within 48 hours after the incident involving Israeli tourists, militants kidnapped a senior officer of the Indian Oil Corporation. The officer, Mr. K. Doraiswamy, has been abducted, demanding the release of three militants as the security forces launched a massive hunt to trace the kidnapped Israeli. The increasing incidents of kidnapping show that the militants are becoming desperate. Instead of attacking the

security forces, the militants feel that kidnapping involves less risk and is more rewarding. The militants, it is now amply clear, are aided and abetted by Pakistan.

The stepped up militant activities were expected following melting of snow on the passes along the line of actual control. No sane man will say that all militant attacks can be prevented in Kashmir in the present conditions. But the way in which the militants struck on Wednesday needs to be paid more attention. Pakistan-inspired terrorism has a long history in Kashmir. However, its dimensions and impact have not been uniform. Terrorism, thriving on the alienation of the masses, has been strikingly evident in periods of political unrest, while occasional fair play in governments has seen it receding into the background. Acts of terrorists have also been linked to the availability of men and material from across the border. Incidents of bomb blast and clandestine supply of weapons came to be noticed ever since Jammu and Kashmir threw its lot with the Indian union.

Terrorism escalated in the early fifties when Kashmir's popular leadership fell out with the Congress government at the center. Underground subversive cells created by agents from across the border dogged the valley in the late sixties and early seventies. Maqbool Butt, the founder of the Kashmir Liberation Front, who was hanged in Delhi in 1984, was the kingpin of this network. He believed in armed struggle to achieve his goal of secession of the Kashmir valley. Butt was arrested in an encounter in Baramula District in late sixties after he had killed an Indian policeman. Almost total boycott of the Lok Sabha election in the valley in 1989 was followed by a gradual escalation in incidents of terrorism, bomb blasts, killings, kidnappings and encounters. The valley provided a fertile ground for stepped [up] terrorist activities from across the border.

Reportage on Militant Attacks in Punjab

3 Militants, 2 Soldiers Killed

BK2906050091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] In Punjab, three militants, two BSF jawans [Border Security Force soldiers], and four members of one family are among 16 people killed since yesterday. According to an official spokesman, one militant was killed in an encounter with the security forces in Jawal area of Amritsar District, while another two were killed in a case of anti-gang warfare in Jagraon area of Jullundhur District.

29 Killed, Candidate Escapes

BK2906145691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] In Punjab, an independent candidate for the state assembly escaped unhurt, while nine militants and four security force personnel were among the 29 people killed in separate incidents since last night. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh, some unidentified gunmen attacked the house of an independent candidate, Mr. Karnail Singh, in Amritsar District and shot dead his two police bodyguards.

9 Militants Killed

BK3006040291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] In Punjab, nine militants have been killed in separate incidents since last night. According to an official spokesman a large quantity of arms and ammunition was also recovered.

Elsewhere, militants shot dead a Nihang Jathedar of (Bhathandal) in Khanna area of Ludhiana District.

7 Militants, 3 Security Forces Killed

BK0107090091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] In Punjab, seven militants, including one hard core, have been killed and seven arrested while militants shot dead three security forces personnel in separate incidents last night. According to an official spokesman, two militants, including a hard core, were killed in an encounter in Dhariwal area of Gurdaspur District, two in (Dirwal) area, one in Bias area of Amritsar District and another in Adampur area of Jullundur District. Elsewhere in the state, militants shot dead two BSF [Border Security Force] jawans [soldiers] in (Srihargobindpur) area of Gurdaspur District and one member of the village defense force in Ferozepore District.

Meanwhile, the security forces have arrested seven militants during raids in different parts of Amritsar District and recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition from their possession.

15 Killed in Attempted Kashmir Border Crossing

BK2906161991 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, 15 militants were killed, when a group of 80 militants trying to cross over to Pakistan were intercepted by the security forces in the Uri sector last night. Seven militants surrendered to the security forces and combing operations are on to trace the rest.

An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi that the militants belong to the pro-Pakistan Hizbul mujahidin. Reports say about 4,000 trained militants are waiting on the other side of the border for infiltration into the valley.

Elsewhere in the valley, one militant and [illegible] security force personnel were killed in terrorist violence since yesterday. The security forces are maintaining pressure on the militants and seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition during search operations. Efforts are also

on to trace the whereabouts of the Indian Oil Corporation [IOC] official, Mr. Doraiswamy, who was kidnapped by the militants yesterday. Two senior IOC officers have rushed to Srinagar for discussion with the state government officials. The minister of state for petroleum and natural gas, Mr. Krishna Kumar, also spoke to the Jammu and Kashmir governor about the matter.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] vice president, Mr. Malkani, has condemned the kidnapping of Mr. Doraiswamy. He said the government should be firm and should not send any signal of weakness to the militants.

Meanwhile, the body of the Israeli youth, who was killed by militants in a shoot out in Srinagar on Thursday night, is being flown to Tel Aviv later tonight.

Gandhi Murder Suspects Said Attempting To Flee

BK3006072291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0659 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] New Delhi, June 30 (AFP)—A Sri Lankan Tamil guerrilla who is the key suspect in Rajiv Gandhi's assassination may have reached India's southern coast in a bid to escape to his island nation, newspapers reported Sunday.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES and other newspapers quoted official sources as saying that Sivarasan and a woman accomplice, Subha, were sighted moving independently in Tamil Nadu state's coastal district of Ramanathapuram.

Indian authorities have announced a reward of 50,000 dollars for Mr. Sivarasan's capture, describing him as the most wanted man in the assassination plot.

The reports, attributed to sources in the special investigation team (SIT) probing Mr. Gandhi's killing, said "a full alert" was sounded in Ramanathapuram following reports of the duo's sighting.

"The sources said it was possible that Sivarasan and Subha were on the run and attempting to flee to the northern tip of Sri Lanka" in boats, and that the Indian Navy and Coast Guard were on alert, the newspapers said.

Sri Lanka's northeast is virtually controlled by the powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which has emerged as the prime suspect in the May 21 suicide bombing of the former Indian premier in Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Sivarasan and Ms. Subha are said to be LTTE activists.

The former was seen with a woman who detonated a plastic explosive strapped on her while pretending to touch Mr. Gandhi's feet at an election rally in Sriperumpudur town, while the latter was seated among the audience.

Both Mr. Sivarasan and Ms. Subha escaped after the assassination, and have been on the run since the Gandhi murder. The SIT has arrested three Sri Lankan and four Indian Tamils so far for alleged links to the killing.

INDIA TODAY, a respected fortnightly magazine, said Saturday in its latest issue that the plot to kill Mr. Gandhi was hatched in October last year and that the assassination was ordered by LTTE supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran.

It said the key member of the hit squad was Mr. Sivarasan, who comes from Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna Peninsula and was reportedly given the most vital task—the assassination itself.

The LTTE repeatedly denied killing Mr. Gandhi immediately after the assassination, but it has virtually stopped commenting on the killing since the SIT began to close in on the suspects.

Sri Lankans Required To Register With Police

BK2906035991 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, all Sri Lankan Tamils residing outside refugee camps have been asked to register with the nearest police station within a week. A state government communique issued in Madras says such Sri Lankan Tamils should furnish all the required details to the authorities. It also directed shops, business establishments, and institutions employing Sri Lankan Tamils to give details about them forthwith. The communique cautions the Sri Lankan Tamils that if they fail to register within a week, they will be deported.

Trade Union Leader Killed in Andhra Pradesh

BK0107033291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, a trade union leader, Mr. N. Bhaskar Rao, working in Singareni collieries was killed by suspected Naxalites [Maoist guerrillas] when he was going to the office last night. Reports reaching Hyderabad say about 10 Naxalites came in a car and shot dead the trade unionist at point blank range.

2 Government Officials, Others Kidnapped in Assam

BK0107083291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Text] In Assam, six persons, including two senior state government officials and two ONGC [Oil and Natural Gas Commission] officials, have been kidnapped by suspected ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] activists. Miscreants kidnapped the commissioner personnel, Mr. S.K. Tiwari, from his residence in Guwahati while the additional commissioner of Barang, Mr. M.M. Das, and his confidential assistant were abducted from

Mangaldai. The chief geophysicist of ONGC, Mr. Bholanath Jaishwal, and the deputy superintendent engineer, Mr. C.R. Mohanty, and the divisional engineer of P&T [Posts and Telegraph] Mr. Dashrath Pandit, were kidnapped from Jorhat. All the abduction took place early this morning. The state government has launched a massive manhunt.

Finance Minister Interviewed on Economy

BK2806165691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1547 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Interview with Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh by All India Radio special correspondent Ratan Salve on the "Spotlight Program;" place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ratan Salve] Dr. Singh, you have taken over as the finance minister at a very difficult time. As everybody knows, the country is passing through an unprecedented economic crisis. Budget deficit has been mounting over the years and the balance of payment position is very difficult. You have already ruled out the imposition of financial emergency. What measures do you think to put the economy back in shape, particularly in the light of the talks you and the prime minister had yesterday with the opposition leaders? Do you contemplate any radical reforms in the economy?

[Manmohan Singh] Well, you have rightly said that I have taken over as finance minister at an exceedingly difficult time. In many ways, this is probably the most difficult period in the history of independent India. But, a crisis is also an opportunity. It can be a turning point; and I am confident that we will grapple with this crisis effectively and that we will come out of it as a nation, as a people, a stronger country, a more dynamic economy, a more just society. As regards the measures that I propose to take, I am very close to the budget day and it will not be proper for me to spell out how I shall overcome this crisis; but the meeting that you referred to with the opposition leaders yesterday was meant to share with them the problems that the government faces, that the country faces; because as the prime minister has been saying, we are not going to adopt a partisan approach in dealing with basic national problems, and the economic crisis today is not a partisan problem, it is a problem for this nation, it is a problem of survival of this nation as an independent vibrant society. While we are in a crisis, there is no cause for despair or despondency. Our economy has made phenomenal progress since independence and that is going to be the base from which we are going to move forward. Our agriculture remains a dynamic agriculture. The scientific temper about which Jawaharlal Nehru spoke so much, I think, now (?permeates) our agriculture. We have a vast reservoir of technological and managerial skills in our country. I think we are going to use that great asset to increase our exports, to modernize our economy in a big way; and I find in our country a new class of young entrepreneurs who want to go forward at a much faster pace, who are not afraid of competing against the multinationals, who are not afraid of doing business in a competitive environment. I think these are the great assets that our country has. So the fact that we are in an economic crisis, this should not give anybody a feeling that we as a country can only go down. I believe if the government provides correct leadership, this crisis can be turned into a big opportunity for restructuring our economy. That's the process I want to initiate, and, therefore, we seek the cooperation of all enlightened citizens regardless of their party affiliations to help me, to help the government, and help the country to tide over these difficulties.

[Ratan Salve] Dr. Singh, can you analyze the reasons for the crisis that we are facing?

[Manmohan Singh] Well, the reasons are many. There have been some external factors, there has been the Gulf crisis, there has been political uncertainty since January 1990. Therefore, the confidence in our currency is weak. Therefore people who were lending money to us no longer are as keen to lend; nonresident Indians are not keen to bring money into our country. But fundamentally, the crisis is because this country's fiscal system has not been properly managed; that we have been spending much too much; that the spending has been often in nonproductive sectors. We have borrowed. Borrowing is no crime. But if you borrow and invest wisely, we can become rich. But if you borrow and spend it on current consumption, that's the road to disaster. And that's what we have done. And we have this internal debt, we have this external debt. So, I think, fiscal indiscipline is at the root of our basic problems.

[Ratan Salve] But as I understand from the reports that go that the opposition leaders have reacted very strongly to any idea of cutting down subsidies or going in for the IMF loan. Would you kindly elaborate on it?

[Manmohan Singh] Well, that was a meeting in camera and the agreement was that we will not talk about what we discussed. It was essentially a meeting or an exchange of views. The impression I got was that all members understood the difficulties, the critical situation that we face. They also shared their worries about certain things might be done, the effects of cutting subsidies, the effect of going into the IMF. I am confident that most of those worries, I will be able to take care of.

[Ratan Salve] The opposition has strongly reacted to the conditionalities. Kindly elaborate a little more on it.

[Manmohan Singh] Well, we will explore all options—IMF, non-IMF. I am not saying that IMF is the only route. If there are other viable options, I would like to use that. But I must recognize that I do not share this perception that going to the IMF is something immoral or it is per se antinational. We are members of the international financial institutions, we are members in good standing, we have a long credit card of doing business with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. These

are multilateral institutions and it is my belief that we can use their resources without compromising our essential basic interests.

[Ratan Salve] But, then you are on record as saying on your first interaction with the media on Tuesday [25 June] last that there is need for modernization and opening up of the economy. Do you suggest that the multinationals will have easy access to the Indian economy?

[Manmohan Singh] I am going to bring about basic structural reforms in our economy. I am convinced that India must think afresh on many of these issues. Our economy must be freed of unnecessary controls which have hampered initiatives, which have hampered the exercise of tremendous creativity and entrepreneurial abilities that exist in our country. I also believe that India should take advantage of the advances in technology all over the world. And where is the technology? The technology is not with the governments of countries. This technology is with the multinationals. Now, I am not saying that we are going to be a free for all. We will be selective here. But I do feel that we need a new orientation in our attitude in dealing with the multinationals.

There are areas where we should welcome them and if there are any problems that come in the way of effective cooperative interaction between them and us, I will remove those cobwebs. I have mentioned also that we want a big role for Nonresident Indians in India's development. But there are many procedures here, nobody finds it easy to do business. There are so many agencies interfering here and there and it is my intention to remove those cobwebs. It is also my intention to create an economic environment, where, as I said the other day, investing in India will be both patriotic as well as good business.

[Ratan Salve] Well, coming to the prices, these are rising, increasing steadily and you have said at the first press conference that the government has no magic formula to roll back or stabilize the prices in the short run. What measures do you perceive to bring this price to the common man.

[Manmohan Singh] Well, I have been quoted, misquoted, I don't know, but I would like to say that what I said was by no way intended as a repudiation of the election manifesto of our party. That manifesto, as I said the other day, is our friend, philosopher, and guide. That sets out the medium term direction in which our country will move and we take very seriously those commitments and it is my belief that I have a strategy that if in the next two years this country adopts a strong fiscal discipline that at the end of five years of this government, we would have completed more than 100 percent which we have promised. But everything is subject to the availability of financial resources. Within those resources our commitment to do everything possible to implement the promises that our party has made to the people is firm, is irrevocable.

[Ratan Salve] Can you spell out some long term plans to bring back these prices to a stable level?

[Manmohan Singh] The important thing is to control reckless expansion of the budgetary deficit, curb unnecessary expenditure, increase the productivity of public sector enterprises, create a climate conducive to efficiency, elimination of waste, a concern for quality, a competitive environment where people will make money not by manipulating the market, but by competing effectively for quality, for cost reduction and all those other things. Now, it is only through this machanism plus a great degree of restraint on the part of all, particularly the more affluent section, and also the workers, if all of us want to be paid more than what this economy can afford, then we are in trouble. So that is why I said utmost fiscal discipline, utmost economic displine on the part of all, more so, on the part of the affluent, but in this, all sections of the society have to help me. If this is done, I am confident, I would have ushered in a new era of price stability in the history of this country.

[Ratan Salve] Dr. Singh, the tentative date for the presentation of the budget has been given as 24th of next month. Is that right?

[Manmohan Singh] Well, I have only read the press speculation. I think it is only after the president has given accent that the exact date can be made known. But as the prime minister said in his opening statement to the nation that we will come with the budget before the end of next month.

[Ratan Salve] Thank you sir.

Rajya Sabha Congress-I House Leader Resigns

BK3006094391 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0930 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Mr. P. Shiv Shankar has resigned as the leader of the Congress-I parliamentary party in the Rajya Sabha. He has requested the prime minister to nominate his successor at the earliest.

Mr. Shiv Shankar was nominated the leader of the Rajya Sabha in early 1981 replacing Mr. N.D. Tiwari who moved to Uttar Pradesh as chief minister.

Punjab Congress-I To Contest New Poll Dates

BK2906160591 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] The Punjab Congress-I has declared that it is ready to participate in the election in the state, if a fresh poll schedule is announced canceling the present schedule. This was stated in a press release issued after a meeting of the party office-bearers in Chandigarh today. The meeting also called upon other like-minded political parties to forge a united front to fight militancy in Punjab. The meeting opposed any further extension of president's rule in the state. It welcomed the union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan's offer to

talk to anybody, including militants, if they give up violence and agree to work within the constitutional framework.

Advani Reliquishes New Delhi Parliamentary Seat

BK2706124691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, has resigned his New Delhi Lok Sabha seat while deciding to retain the Gandhinagar seat in Gujarat. Mr. Advani had been elected from both the constituencies in the last elections. He personally called on the Lok Sabha speaker, Mr. Rabi Ray, and handed over to him a letter resigning the New Delhi seat. Mr. Advani said he had opted for Gandhinagar in deference to the massive mandate received by the BJP in Gujarat and by him in Gandhinagar.

Lok Sabha Session, Presidential Address Dates

BK2806132091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] A message just received says the Lok Sabha has been convened on the 9th of next month and the session will continue till the 13th of September. The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, will address the joint session of both the houses of Parliament at 1100 on the 11th of next month in the Central Hall. The Rajya Sabha has been convened from the 11th of next month.

Iran

President Urges Iranians Abroad To Return

LD2706223791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran first Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in a message addressed to the session of the American and Canadian Islamic Students' Association, refers to the fact that Iran's glorious Islamic revolution, in its 13th fruitful year, is in the crucial and decisive juncture of construction and reconstruction. He said: Your country and people in this great construction jihad, are having to make use of the scientific and specialized achievements in human culture, and for this reason, while relying on their God-given powers, they have set their sights on your scientific prowess so that they can see their offspring, with full achievements, garners, at their side and in the vanguard of this great movement.

In the president's message it was stressed that the Islamic Students' Associations must also utilize all their resources to realize and fulfil this aim among the Iranian expatriates, and members of such organizations can be executers of this government and system policy, and neutralize the plots and propaganda of the enemies who consider their own existence to be in the separation of interested compatriots [as received]. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Today the enemies of the religion and the nation consider the return of any Iranian Muslim to the country as the return of the plundered resources of the people and for preventing this national interest embark on any action, propaganda, and spreading of lies. The president stressed: Members of Islamic organizations abroad are examples of the forces affiliated to the Islamic revolution and must keep in mind their crucial role, mission, and responsibility.

Paper Reports Saudi Seizure of Planes

NC3006170091 Paris AFP in English 1445 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Tehran, 30 June (AFP)—Saudi Arabia has seized eight Iran Air planes that belong to Kuwait and had been repainted in the colors of the Iranian national carrier, the World of Islam [JAHAN-E ESLAM] newspaper reported Sunday.

The paper, which is close to Iranian hardliners, said the aircraft were seized at Jiddah airport where they had been flown to repatriate Iranian pilgrims from the nearby Moslem holy city of Mecca.

The planes were "among a number of Kuwaiti aircraft put in storage in Iran by the Iraqi regime," it said.

They had been "brought into the service of the Iranian civilian fleet and repainted in the colors of the Islamic republic," World of Islam said, quoting informed sources.

"It seems the Kuwaiti Government applied pressure on Saudi Arabia to return the aircraft," the paper said, without specifying when they were seized.

There was no official comment from Iran Air on the report. But according to Tehran press reports, hundreds of Iranian pilgrims are stranded at Jiddah airport because of a disruption in flights.

Iraq says it flew 148 aircraft to safety in Iran, including six Airbus planes belonging to Kuwait, during the Gulf war.

Report on Emami-Kashani Friday Sermon

NC2806154191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1019 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Friday sermon in Arabic by Hojjat-ol-Eslam Mohammad Emami-Kashani on 28 June; place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. May peace be on the Muslim brothers and sisters everywhere. I urge you to be pious before God and to avoid unlawful acts. Human beings have a natural tendency toward Islam and peace and stability. International rights are the fruit of sound ideas which support this basis.

The only factor that disturbs this equation and world balance is the spirit of hegemony and domination of the

arrogants, led by global arrogance in the West and East. What brings pleasure is that the bases of Eastern arrogance have collapsed, but the Western-U.S. arrogance increasingly dares to impose its hegemony on the Islamic countries.

The U.S. President proposed to the Middle Eastern countries that they avoid possession of weapons of mass destruction, and he has received some support for this proposal. But the United States' aims are exposed. It seeks to control armament in the Middle East. It supports the Zionist entity against the Muslims. At a time when it proposes disarmament of the region's countries, we observe that America's advanced weapons flow into the Zionist entity.

As we said, the Islamic Republic calls for peace and stability in the entire world. Thus, in light of the U.S. proposal, we declare to the entire world that we propose that disarmament apply to every one, including the superpowers. When this is done, humanity will breathe easier, but this is merely a wish. We hope all peoples will rise one day and destroy the malicious idols of their own making, to which they have been submissive.

Today, we see the United States, which is present in the Persian Gulf, give a free hand to the ruling Ba'thist regime in Iraq to continue shedding the blood of Muslim Shiites. We observe new crimes being committed every day against these oppressed people. We say to the Iraqi Government: Can you tell us if any government has done what you have done to your people? Woe to you, murderers. [Koranic verse]

O Muslim brothers and sisters, today marks the annual anniversary of the martyrdom of the oppressed Ayatollah Dr. Beheshti and his companions. The chaste blood of these martyrs has quenched the global arrogance's conspiracy against the Islamic revolution. Thus these martyrs' standing has been enhanced; and God humiliated the blind-sighted hypocrites, the agents of imperialism. [passage omitted].

Reportage on Velayati's Visit to Switzerland

WA0107131491

For reportage on the visit by Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati to Switzerland, see the Switzerland section of the 1 July West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Velayati on Regional Security, Hajj, Hostages

LD2906151591 Tehran IRNA in English 1337 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Tehran, 29 June, IRNA—The foreign nministers of Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Syria, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Sa'ud al-Faysal, and Faruq al-Shar', would meet soon, Velayati told a press conference here. He did not say where the meeting would take place.

He also said Iran and members of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council [(P)GCC] were seeking to expand relations in various fields.

Addressing Iranian and foreign journalists, Velayati also said in order to remove current points at issue between the two countries the Islamic Republic is ready to admit an Iraqi delegation. "If the Iraqis are willing to send a delegation to Tehran there is no impediment," he said.

Talks were held last week between Iranian and Iraqi envoys (charge d'affaires) with the Foreign Ministry officials in Baghdad and Tehran on a possible visit of such a delegation to Tehran, he said.

Underlining the need for collective security cooperation in the region, Velayati made it clear that it was not possible to ignore a country like Iran which owns half of the total coasts in the Persian Gulf.

Velayati described as a "positive development" the reopening of Iran's and Egypt's interest sections in Cairo and Tehran. He however criticized comments made by "an Egyptian minister" on Iran's role in the security of the region, saying "such statements will be of no help to the atmosphere of understanding."

He was referring to statements made by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa who asked Iran "to cast no doubt on Egypt's role in the (Persian) Gulf."

Musa, who made the remarks on Wednesday, was reportedly responding to an earlier statement by First Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran 'Ali Mohammad Besharati who said neither Syria nor Egypt had a military role in the Persian Gulf. Because, he told the TEHRAN TIMES in an interview Tuesday, Syria is bogged down in Lebanon and Egypt is weighed down by economic problems.

In an opinion column under the heading "Egyptian Minister's Far-fetched Comparisons", the TEHRAN TIMES today made some "clarifications" regarding the issue.

On the economic aspect, the paper said Iran should not be compared with Egypt "which is the largest recipient of U.S. grants—an unbearable humiliation for the Islamic world—besides owing tens of billions of dollars to foreign financial institutions."

It also termed the claim by Musa that Egypt was a stronger military power than Iran, as an "unrealistic evaluation."

The paper said Iran had nothing against the 6 plus 2 security scheme (six member Persian Gulf Cooperation Council members plus Egypt and Syria) "if it meant to guarantee the safety of land frontiers in some Arab countries."

But it said "Egypt's anxiety to have a role in the Persian Gulf security arrangement would be like Iran wanting to ensure the security of the Suez Canal."

On the behavior of the Saudi Government towards Iranian hajj pilgrims, Velayati said "The Saudi Government has shown its utmost cooperation since the arrival of our pilgrims in Mecca and Medina."

"Its conduct has been proper as well and we hope that in view of good understanding between Iran and Saudi Arabia we will see the hajj rituals performed more splendidly than ever before in coming years."

On Tehran-Paris financial disputes and the current talks in Paris between Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi and his French counterpart Francois Scheer, Velayati expressed hope that the outcome of the negotiations would be known in the next few days.

He said Iran and France have agreed not to reveal for the time being any figure on the amount of money they should pay each other.

On ways of ending the issue of Western hostages held in Lebanon, Velayati said it was such a complicated issue that Iran cannot end it by itself.

"We are not able to persuade the Lebanese groups that they should free the hostages. If we want to solve the hostages issue, all hostages including those abducted by Israel should be taken into consideration," he said.

"Israel is under the deep influence of Washington and London and it is the United States and Britain that should put an end to the hostage issue," Velayati pointed out.

On an attack by a group of Monafeqin (outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization) on a car carrying some Iranian diplomats in Switzerland this week, Velayati said:

"After participating in a press conference in Lausanne, I decided to call on Iran's diplomatic representation instead of returning to the hotel (where I stayed). The other car departed for the hotel.

"Upon seeing the car with a political number plate and assuming that I was among its passengers, some 40 to 50 counterrevolutionaries attacked it and insulted a number of Iranian officials.... Six of the assailants were arrested after police intervention."

He termed the assault as a "futile effort by the bankrupt dissidents" of the Government of the Islamic Republic and criticized the Swiss police for "its late presence on the scene, failure to act well, and its lack of decisiveness in safeguarding the safety of foreign diplomatic guests."

"The fact that a number of hooligans can threaten the security of a country like Switzerland which is host to international meetings is not in its interests," he said.

On his call for Iraq to be included in any regional security arrangements despite its "expansionist goals", Velayati said "I did not mean the present government in Iraq. This government is in no way helpful to the security of the region.

In an address he made at the world economic forum's summit in Lausanne, Switzerland earlier this week, Velayati said: "Any regional approach should include all states of the Persian Gulf area. Exclusion of any member would lead in fact to competition and bloc formation and would contain the seeds of future instability and tension. In this context, Iraq should not be excluded, in principle, from such arrangements."

Velayati said in the interview that Iraq was a danger to the security of the region but if a government "which respects the rights of others and cares for the security of the region comes to power, we will not oppose it."

The foreign minister noted that the present Iraqi Government which had launched aggressions on both Iran and Kuwait, inflicting substantial losses, was not qualified to participate in any security plan for the region.

Terming as a catastrophe the incidents now happening in Yugoslavia, Velayati maintained that negotiations between the Yugoslav republics was the sole solution. He also opposed any use of force.

"We are against any foreign intervention. It is the Yugoslav people who should decide their own fate."

On Iran's relations with the (P)GCC member states, Velayati said "We have so far taken important steps in this regard, including resumption of diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia which is an important member of the council. We are optimistic about the future of ties with the (P)GCC."

The foreign minister also expressed satisfaction over the measures taken by a UN factfinding team to assess losses inflicted on Iran during the war.

He said UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar is to travel to Iran before the forthcoming General Assembly meet to prepare the ground for formation of a committee to determine the party responsible for the 1980-88 war.

Velayati also expressed regret over the recent developments in Algeria, hoping that "the process of democratizing Algeria will go ahead smoothly and without violence."

"The majority of the Algerian people favor Islam and both parties view Islam through their own attitudes. Our wish is that the rule of Islam will prevail in Algeria," he concluded.

On 'Concerted Effort' To Free Hostages

LD2806212191 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Velayati, who had traveled to Holy Mecca to visit the house of God, returned to Tehran today. [passage omitted] In an interview, Mr.

Velayati pointed to his meeting with the British Foreign Office minister and his participation in the world economic forum in Switzerland. He said:

[Begin Velayati recording] We had a stopover at London airport. We had a meeting with the British Foreign Office minister at his request. Bilateral relations and the situation in Iraq—especially the difficulties faced by Iraqi Shiites—were the most important topics of the talks. Also discussed were the all-embracing efforts of the governments of those citizens who are held hostage in one way or other in Lebanon—such as Iran and some Western states—and the Lebanese held hostage by the Israeli Government. It was decided to make a concerted effort to free the hostages. [end recording]

Karrubi Urges Independence of Judicial System

LD2906140591 Tehran IRNA in English 1207 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Tehran, 27 June, IRNA—Majles Speaker Mehdi Karrubi Thursday underlined a firm and speedy implementation of the duties delegated to the judicial system. "No official or person should exert influence on the activities of this power," he stressed.

Speaking at the second seminar of judiciary officials, opened Wednesday, Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi noted: "The judiciary should be completely independent and impenetrable." In this way, he added, people from various walks of life would feel secure and not be concerned about restoration of their legitimate rights.

He urged the judicial system to adopt a decisive attitude toward offenses such as drug trafficking and huge profit making.

He underscored the independence of the judicial system as its most important characteristics and noted that the judiciary should take a similar stand toward different people and treat them according to current laws and regulations.

Elsewhere in his speech, Karrubi urged the judicial system to remain away from differences of opinions and political views in order to remain safe and invulnerable.

He described the overall activities of the judicial system as "propitious" and hailed its services in standing against anti-revolutionary forces and corrupt elements of the former regime.

Mohtashami on U.S. 'Presence' in Holy Lands

NC2806151691 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 20 Jun 91 p 2

[Report on address by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami, Tehran Majles deputy, at Tehran gathering to commemorate the martyrdom of Iranian pilgrims in Mecca, by unidentified correspondent; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In the course of his address, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami spoke on the manner of martrydom of the pilgrims on that bloody Friday in Mecca and said: The servants of the Al-Sa'uds killed hundreds of pilgrims to the House of God at the command of the United States and dragged the pilgrims so dear to God into blood and dust. This 'Ashura at the Haven of Divine Peace was very hurtful for the late Imam, the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and made him extremely sad. This sadness over the martyrdom of the pilgrims remained with him until the end of his life. [passage omitted]

Mr. Mohtashami said: Is it proper that the Islamic ummah and the true servants of God should stay away from the Haven of Divine Peace, or be sacrificed, so that the Al-Sa'uds should remain in power?

The Tehran Majles deputy then referred to the Hijaz [Saudi Arabian] regime's invitation to foreign forces, in particular, to the United States, to maintain a presence in that country and said: Today Fahd's accursed son, while inviting the United States, officially announces that he desires peace with despotic Israel, and is prepared to accept the U.S. plans for the region.

The speaker then continued: The Al-Sa'uds have tainted themselves with a blot of shame that will not be removed even with the holy waters of Zamzam [a well in Mecca] until Judgement Day. World arrogance and apostasy want a hajj in which all Muslims are unconscious of what is happening in the world.

They want a hajj in which the people completely become oblivious of their identity and destroy it. They want a hajj in which the people have no control over their destiny. [passage omitted]

According to our correspondent, Mr. Mohtashami referred to the presence of the foreign forces in the Persian Gulf and said: If we have faith in God as we forge ahead, the U.S. destroyers should either depart from the region or be sent to the depths of the ocean.

He added: The United States seeks a pretext for its exit from the region, but wishes to keep its weapons stockpiled in the area so that if necessary it can use them easily, and thus impose its plans on the region.

Regarding the Palestinian people's uprising, the Tehran Majles deputy said: With their reliance on faith and with empty hands, the people of Palestine have pitched themselves against enemies, and this in itself is an indication that the best power to endanger the U.S. objectives in the world is the power of the Muslims and of Islam.

Alluding to the steadfastness of the Lebanese Hizballah against the United States he said: With their limited numbers, the noble Hizballah Muslims, only with the armor of faith, have entered the foray against U.S. weapons and equipment, and with minimal forces, have

been able to rub the nose of the greater powers into the dust of humiliation, and have made them grovel with their steadfastness.

In concluding the report, our correspondent added: Saddam is the servant and shackled slave of the superpowers, and in its agreements and treaties, the Ba'thist Iraq has placed the interests of the Muslim Iraqi people at the feet of the United States. Today the United States is present in Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, and Palestine and in various parts of Islamic countries, and the only system and government which has resisted this domination and hegemony is Islamic Iran.

Nuri on 'High Morale' of Law Enforcement Forces

LD2706062891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 25 Jun 91

[Text] During a ceremony at Tehran's 12th Farvardin Garrison, attended by Interior Minister Nuri, the former Islamic Revolution Committee guards, who are currently serving within the law enforcement forces, received their rank shoulder straps this morning. According to our correspondent, during this ceremony, which was also attended by the commander of the law enforcement forces, Brigadier General Sohrabi, Interior Minister Nuri, while conferring the ranks of 40 former Islamic Revolution Committee guards, said the files of more than 7,000 guards in various groups have been reviewed, and their ranks will be conferred gradually.

While expressing satisfaction with the merger of the law enforcement forces, Nuri said: thanks to the high morale of the law enforcement forces, we hope that they would perform their tasks in the best possible manner, by observing piety, commitment, and discipline and through safeguarding Islamic principles.

At the conclusion of this ceremony, the units participating in the ceremony paraded past the Holy Koran and pictures of the founders of the Islamic Revolution and the leader of the Islamic Revolution.

Nezhad-Hoseynian Comments on Paris Trip

NC3006130791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Minister of Heavy Industries Nezhad-Hoseynian returned to Tehran this morning following his visit to Paris. He spoke to our correspondent on the outcome of this visit:

[Begin Nezhad-Hoseynian recording] This visit took place at the invitation of the French minister of industries and foreign trade, with whom we held two rounds of talks. The French economy and finance minister and the minister for research and technology also attended the talks.

In general, the current economic ties between the two countries were discussed. These relations have expanded considerably in the past two to three years. However, the ties are mainly commercial. Talks were held on planning for long-term economic cooperation between the two countries. The most likely field for this cooperation is in industry and it should be carried out in conformity with the present policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially in the expansion of industrial exports. We had sessions with industrial magnates and explained the government's new economic policy to them. We decided that a group of experts from the French Industries Ministry would visit Iran in the next two to three months to inspect our factories and assess their maximum capacity. This group will also study the scope for joint cooperation between our two countries. [end recording]

Mr. Nezhad-Hoseynian also said: In the course of this visit, we decided to sign a technical, scientific, and research agreement. This agreement will be signed when the two countries formulate specific contents for the agreement. The minister added: The French officials promised to provide greater assistance in training a specialists' cadre and in establishing vocational and professional institutes in our country. Similarly, some French industrial units which manufacture vehicles and other equipment for power stations and factories announced their willingness to transfer their technology, extend cooperation, and jointly invest with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

SALAM Reports on Mohtashami Address in Babol

NC2806144791 Tehran SALAM in Persian 20 Jun 91 p 11

[Report on address by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami, Tehran Majles deputy, by unidentified correspondent in Babol; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami spoke on the need to preserve the gains of the Islamic Revolution and to continue on the path of the Imam of the nation, and warned of plots by world arrogance and Zionism against the Islamic Revolution and Muslims.

He said that the continuation of the Islamic movement in the world—which the United States dreads—can be seen in the establishment of the Basiji and Hezbollahi resistance cells. [passage omitted]

He said: We should support the Hezbollah with all our might and Hezbollahis should have an active presence in the organizations and institutions of the country. We should not permit the Islamic resistance forces and the Hezbollahis in the Islamic world to lose their luster and depart from the scene.

He then condemned the disarming of the Muslim forces in Lebanon and deemed it a plot to benefit Israel, adding: The United States is terrified of the fact that Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Lebanon, and other Muslim

countries will one day become like Iran and endanger its interests. Every step taken by even one of the citizens of those countries is one step with a combatant spirit; it is tantamount to the strength of that atom bomb the great powers possess.

The United States has the strongest military might, but before the strength of the Basiji, which has still not been fully gauged, it has come down on its knees. In Lebanon, the Basiji and Hezbollahi forces through their suicidal actions rolled up the scroll of the existence of the U.S. forces. [passage omitted]

Daily on Claims of Iranian Nuclear Capability

NC2906131191 Tehran SALAM in Persian 20 Jun 91 p 12

[Unattributed commentary: "The Continuing Saga of Disarmament"]

[Text] These days American officials constantly talk about their new recommendation for international peace and security. Much is also being said about the benefits of disarmament. If we observe one of the independent (!) Western news sources on a daily basis, we can read about the production or sale of destructive weapons by countries whom the Americans do not like. The latest American discovery is that Iran is manufacturing atomic bombs! It is interesting to note that political rejects and detested people are presenting evidence of this new discovery. The American news agency AP quoted one of the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] members as saying that the Iranian Government has allocated $200 millions for its nuclear programs since 9 March 1990. He also claims that Argentina, Pakistan, and China are helping Iran in this area.

AP continues: Iraq has been severely weakened by the Persian Gulf war and Iran is trying to fill the power vacuum. In order to pull itself out of isolation, Iran is extending its hands for European assistance.

A Bush administration official, who wishes to remain anonymous, said that Iran wants to acquire nuclear weapons. He added: The U.S. Government has tried to prevent Pakistan, Argentina, and China from selling equipment that would give Iran secrets to enable them to produce these types of weapons.

AP recalls the wonderful memories from the Pahlavi regime and repeats that America has asked China to stop selling nuclear technology to Iran and Algeria and ballistic missiles to Pakistan and Syria. AP claims that a U.S. State Department official will travel to Peking next week to hold talks on this topic.

What is behind this commotion? Some believe that the Americans know that these reports are false but that they want to see how the Iranian officials react to the accusations. The answer that will be given will basically say that U.S. research on the production of nuclear weapons in Iran is illegitimate. It will stress that even though Iran has not acquired nuclear capability yet, it reserves the right to use any weapons—including nuclear—to try and combat the imposition of U.S. hegemony.

Dispute With Germany Over Nuclear Plant

LD3006120991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0951 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The German economics minister, Mr. Juergen Moellemann, arrived in Tehran yesterday at the head of an economic delegation comprising representatives from a number of important companies and economic and trade centers of that country.

The aim of the visit is to discuss and expand bilateral relations in various economic and trade exchanges. The significance of the latest meeting of the two countries' economic officials is due to the fact that the first joint Iran-Germany economic commission in the past 15 years, will be held in Tehran during the German delegation's visit to Iran. [passage omitted]

The volume of trade exchanges between the two countries was $4.6 billion last year, and is expected to rise to $6 billion in the current year.

On the other hand, one of the most important obstacles on the way to expanding Iran-German relations is Germany's failure to complete the Bushehr nuclear power plant project. The project was left unfinished during the Iran-Iraq war, but the German company Siemens, according to an agreement with the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization, undertook to complete the project at any time the Atomic Energy Organization made a decision in that regard.

It is worth mentioning that, so far, Iran has spent billions of dollars on setting up the Bushehr nuclear power plant in order to maintain the country's electricity supply.

Currently, under the pretext that the plant's technology is outdated and the plant is not safe, the German Government has refused to complete the project and has announced that, instead of completing the abovementioned project, it is prepared to help Iran build a gas power plant. At the same time, according to a statement issued by our country's Atomic Energy Organization, it is possible to reconstruct and complete the Bushehr power plant using modern techniques.

The German Government's recent decision means denying Iran 2,400 megawats of electricity and wasting billion of dollars spent by Iran to complete the project.

Concerning this issue, our country's minister of economic affairs and finance yesterday expressed the hope that, with removal of some obstacles which exist on the way of bilateral cooperation, the two countries' economic and trade exchanges will expand further.

Concerning Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's five-year economic development plan, Germany closely cooperates with the Islamic Republic of Iran in implementation of major industrial and trade projects. No doubt the joint economic commission will pave the way for further expansion of this cooperation.

Decision on Bushehr Nuclear Plant 'Unjust'

LD2906122191 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Tehran, 29 June, IRNA—Iran's Atomic Energy Organization in a statement Friday said the Iranian Government cannot remain indifferent toward the unjust decision of the German Government for not issuing permission to resume construction of the Bushehr nuclear power plant, in southern Iran.

The German Government recently announced the decision attributing it to the outdated techniques and lack of safety conditions in the power plant and added that in order to protect Iran's interests German Minister of Economy Juergen W. Moellemann will visit Tehran shortly to convince the Iranian officials.

The statement said, if lack of safety of the plant was the reason for the decision, the German Government was expected to propose modernization of the plant instead of proposing a gas-burning power plant. According to nuclear experts updating of the plant would be possible through a dlrs. 30 million investment, said the statement.

Iran has so far sustained over dlrs. 10 billion of losses due to refusal of the the German contractor, Siemens, to complete the project and failure to complete the project would mean depriving Iran of 2,400 megawatts of electricity.

The German Government which during the Iraq-Iran war refused to issue permission for shipment of spare parts to Iran promised to resume work on the plant and complete the project right after the cessation of the hostilities, it added.

According to the ruling of the International Chamber of Commerce between Siemens and Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, the former undertook to complete the project anytime Iran made its decision in this connection, said the statement adding that the German contractor has been notified of Iran's decision since eight years ago.

It said that Siemens dispatched an experts team to Iran to investigate the semi-completed power plant in order to make the necessary arrangements for its completion after taking into consideration the existing conditions after having received 18 million German marks.

The statement said the organization expected the German Government to make an official statement in this connection.

Resumption of Ties With Egypt Disclaimed

LD2906182791 Tehran IRNA in English 1744 GMT 29 June 91

[Text] Tehran, 29 June, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry on Saturday disclaimed remarks attributed to the head of Iran's interest section in Cairo that the Islamic Republic and Egypt will resume diplomatic relations this year.

It said an interview with Egypt's AL-WAFD weekly also printed in the Arabic dailies AL-BAYAN (published in Dubayy) and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT (published in London) had erroneously referred to Asghar Mohammadi, the head of the Iranian interest section in Cairo, as the charge d'affaires of the Iranian Embassy.

The Foreign Ministry said Asghari had not made any remarks on resumption of ties with Egypt.

RESALAT Replies to SALAM Criticism

NC2906145391 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 17 Jun 91 pp 2, 12

[RESALAT Domestic Policy Department commentary: "The Spiritual and Terrestrial Plane"]

[Excerpts] Following the guidance and instructions of the great leader that support of the president is obligatory to all, the people at the Friday prayers shouted the slogans "Whoever opposes Hashemi-Rafsanjani is an opponent of the leader;" "Whoever opposes the leader is an enemy of the Prophet (peace be upon him)."

The newspaper SALAM carried a commentary in its 12 June issue entitled "A Slogan and Some Questions," discussing the same slogan and we draw the attention of our readers to some excerpts from the commentary. [passage omitted]

A perusal of the contents of the commentary raises some fundamental difficulties, since it was published in SALAM anonymously. This newspaper has been pegged as the mouthpiece of the militant clergy comprised of the dear ones who had, and still have, a serious and basic presence on the scene before and after the victory of the Islamic Revolution. They have always emphasized that the basic principle of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system is "absolute Velayat-e Faqih" [absolute rule of the supreme jurisconsult]. [passage omitted]

It is hoped that the following questions will be answered and the responses will eliminate any ambiguities which have arisen from that commentary: What do you believe is the role to be played by the Velayat-e Faqih in the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran? Do you consider the points advocated or forbidden by the Vali-ye Faqih [supreme jurisconsult] in executive, legislative, and judicial matters binding? [passage omitted]

In your opinion, on the basis of what criterion or regulations does the Vali-ye Faqih issue directives such as the support of the president is obligatory on every

one? In your opinion, is such a directive by the great leader in the interest of the system or a personal opinion? If you believe that the directive by the great leader is for advocating or prohibiting discussion of issues in the interest of the system, will not opposition to the president, whose support has been termed obligatory by the Vali-ye Faqih, be opposition to the leader? If you do believe this, will not opposition to the leader be tantamount to opposition against the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him)?

If you accept the above, why did SALAM write that the opponents of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani are not opponents of the Prophet? If you agree that the Vali-ye Faqih prohibits or advocates certain things keeping in view the interests of the Islamic system, why did SALAM mention the removing of executive officials from the firing range of criticism and place them in the domain of the Velayat-e Faqih?

Is it not a fallacy, as has been written in SALAM, that "will a logical mind accept that in a republican system the opponents of the president who voted for other candidates will be considered enemies of the Prophet?" [passage omitted] What is your interpretation of the freedom of expression? Do you believe in any limits or boundaries for such freedom or do you consider it legitimate even to the extent of opposition to the directives of the Leader? [passage omitted]

It is important to mention here that we consider criticism of the policies of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his government—which are in accordance with the Islamic criteria clearly stipulated by the great Imam and the great leader of the revolution—not as opposition to the Vali-ye Faqih, but as opposition, propagation of a feeling of suspicion and of casting aspersions on Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government, which is in contravention of the exhortations of the leader.

In conclusion, it is worth mentioning that in order to raise the level of the people's awareness, there is nothing better than frankness and truth. We hope that with frankness and truth, in order to heighten the people's awareness and eliminate ambiguity, the above queries will be answered.

Khamene'i on Islam Versus 'Camp of Arrogance'

LD2906113691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Excerpts] In a meeting with the esteemed families of the 7 Tir martyrs and the officials of the headquarters organizing ceremonies marking the 10th anniversary of that tragedy, the leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, spoke of the deep and unending opposition of the United States and international capitalists against Islam and the Islamic revolution, and stressed the need for the vigilance, alertness, and farsightedness of the Muslim people of Iran to confront the disastrous acts of the camp of arrogance, headed by the world-devouring United States.

The leader of the Islamic revolution said that the aim of the enemies of Islam from the 7 Tir tragedy was the destruction of the Islamic system, and continued: The divine and unequalled leadership of Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, the uniqueness of the people, the revolutionary slogans, and the revolutionary fervor among the people made this tragedy ineffective. The proud people of Iran also managed to end the destructive war with their heads held high, standing up to the incidents and regional tempests. [passage omitted]

The leader of the Islamic revolution pointed to the eternal opposition of arrogance against Islam and the Islamic revolution, and said: The enemy seeks to create tragedies in any way, and at any time. To this end, it uses vulgar, despicable, and mercenary elements and groups such as the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] and the Iraqi regime as its tool. Arrogance, the United States, and international capitalists oppose Islam and the Islamic revolution wholeheartedly. They seek to inflict damage. The enemy has been slapped by the people and by Islam; his feast has ended in this country.

Their feast is being threatened in other Islamic countries. Therefore, our duty is to safeguard the aspirations and of the revolution, and to be vigilant.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said that the Algerian people's cries of "Allah Akbar" [God is great], from the rooftops, was learned from the Muslim and revolutionary people of Iran. He added: That nation has shown the way to confront arrogance and the enemies of humanity to all the peoples, especially to the Muslims of the globe. Therefore, domineering powers are trying to inflict damage upon the Islamic revolution, to make the people leave the scene. Arrogance will not stop trying to inflict damage for decades to come. We must be aware, we must not be tricked, we must not be influenced by the enemy's propaganda, and we must strengthen our faith in the Islamic system.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i referred to the Monafeqin as the Saddam regime's mercenary puppets for the suppression of Iraqi Kurds and the massacre of the Shiites in the south of that country. Stressing the need for the people's vigilance and farsightedness, he said: The United States and her mercenaries cannot do anything so long as our people are vigilant, faithful, devoted to the Islamic system, and supportive of the authorities. [passage omitted]

Paper Lauds Statement of Government Performance

NC2806181391 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 18 Jun 91 p 1

[Editorial: "The Fulfilling of a Need"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

An important matter has materialized, and henceforth, the first vice president will explain the performance of the executive through the country's mass media, in his capacity as a "government spokesman" for the people.

The appointment of a government spokesman by the executive system is one of the necessities of every government. During the past two years the government of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani lacked a spokesman, and the shortcomings stemming from this were apparent.

Although the esteemed president presents a report on the executive's performance in his weekly Friday prayers sermons to the people and answers questions from various sectors of society on certain matters, this does not appear to be enough, considering the sensitive conditions in the region and the country, the foreign moves and propaganda and miscellaneous debates and opinions which are reflected in the press and various circles on the one hand, and the momentous responsibility of the management of the country's executive on the other. Therefore, the need to appoint a government spokesman had long before arisen.

In the same vein, there was much mention of the need for the people to be informed of the domestic, regional, and international matters, and similarly, the need of the society for information on the government's stance regarding various events. The results of the presentation of information to the people without any intermediaries by the executive will become apparent in the trend of the progress of society and the system toward the desired direction, and will not leave any room for the effects of false propaganda.

Face-to-face exchanges with the people or through the mass media increases society's coefficient of trust and confidence in the executive officials, and through this process debates, comments, and criticism of performance also will traverse a desired path, avoiding tensions and clashes of opinion and tastes in society.

The appointment of the first vice president as the government spokesman indicates the height of faith that the government has in its programs and their progress. This in itself serves to boost the people's confidence in the officials, and encountering varied opinions and ideas and their reflection, instead of doubts and ambiguities, will direct the society toward just arbitration.

Iran To Export Oil to Czechoslovakia

NC2106082191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] From 1 July, Iran will export 105,000 barrels of oil to Czechoslovakia daily, only against foreign exchange, without any adjustment dealings. The petroleum minister announced the above on his return from Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union last night in an interview with our correspondent.

He added: In the course of my visit to Czechoslovakia, the officials asked Iran to export 4 billion to 6 billion cubic meters of gas through an Iranian pipeline—for exporting gas to Europe—and expressed the wish to cooperate in the construction of this pipeline, which has been agreed upon.

Mr. Aqazadeh said: In my meetings with Soviet officials, the earlier agreements were reviewed and the Soviet Union wants a doubling of the volume of gas being exported to that country, which the experts are going to study.

Cuban Official Arrives for Visit

NC3006082191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Mr. Mazola, the Cuban deputy foreign minister for political affairs [title as heard], arrived in Tehran last night and was welcomed by Mr. Va'ezi, Iranian deputy foreign minister for Euro-American Affairs. In the course of his four-day visit, the Cuban deputy foreign minister will meet with the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and discuss bilateral relations, the expansion of political ties, and cooperation between the two countries at the Nonaligned Movement foreign ministers' session in Ghana during the month of Shahrivar [23 August-22 September].

Bangladeshi Minister Arrives on Visit

NC3006084191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] The Bangladeshi minister of state for labor and manpower arrived in Tehran for a three-day visit and was welcomed at Mehrabad airport by Mr. Kamali, our minister of labor and social affairs. The Bangladeshi minister will meet with his Iranian counterpart to discuss topics of mutual interest and ways to expand economic and technical cooperation. He will also deliver a message from his country's prime minister to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Pakistan

Prime Minister Cancels Official Trip to Japan

BK3006122091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1217 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Islamabad, June 30 (AFP)—Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif cancelled an official visit to Japan on

Sunday as Pakistan's law and order situation deteriorated, claiming about 100 lives in less than a week.

Official sources said the prime minister called off his trip at the last minute because of the country's "internal situation," and his programme was being rescheduled.

Mr. Sharif was to leave Monday on a five-day visit at Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's invitation. He was to stop over in Hong Kong on Thursday.

The trip was designed to give a fillip to his eight-month old government's liberal investment policy aimed at improving the country's economy.

Official sources said Mr. Sharif, himself a businessman, wanted to expand economic cooperation with Japan and discuss with Hong Kong businessmen possible industrial ventures in Pakistan.

But he cancelled the trip in the wake of a string of violent incidents and mounting panic in major cities.

Dozens of people have died in clashes between law enforcement agencies and bandits and criminals in Sindh where the government is battling wanton killings by hooded snipers, robberies, abductions for ransom and murders.

A string of terrorist acts officially blamed on political party activists and unidentified infiltrators has already crippled the province's economy.

But the security problem deteriorated recently as it gripped the relatively peaceful and prosperous Punjab province.

Some 13 people were slaughtered Wednesday in Lahore, Pakistan's second largest city, prompting a massive protest in Mr. Sharif's home constituency.

While the prime minister waited for security forces to carry out his orders to arrest the culprits within 72 hours for public hanging, another six people were massacred Saturday in the nearby industrial town of Sheithupura.

The modus operandi was similar. The killers entered a businessman's house, then bound and gagged family members before slitting their throats with sharp-edged weapons.

As in Lahore, the killers did not spare minors and infants while the head of the family was away. Thousands attended the mass funerals in both cities.

Only three days ago, four youths brandishing automatic weapons stopped a passenger bus and fled after killing seven people to settle an old dispute.

Scores of people saw the killing of four people in Jaranwala, another Punjab town, four days ago, while gun battles Saturday in the Pakistani-administered part of Kashmir during the State Assembly polls left 19 people dead.

Mr. Sharif said Thursday he was concerned that lawlessness might upset his government's economic policies.

He ruled out military options but sources said he might implement a new strategy to tackle the situation created by what they called opponents seeking to destabilise the government.

Islamabad Reports Postponement

BK3006132591 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1300 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, has postponed his visit to Japan which was scheduled to begin tomorrow keeping in view the prevailing law and order situation in the country. The decision to this effect was taken at the (?special) cabinet meeting in Islamabad today held under the chairmanship of the prime minister.

Briefing newsmen about the cabinet meeting, the adviser on information and broadcasting, Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, said new date of the visit would be decided by the two governments through mutual consultation. The cabinet, which discussed the law and order situation (?threadbare) decided to hold another emergency meeting tomorrow afternoon to discuss law and order situation and measures to check it. It would also be attended by all the four provincial chief ministers. Tomorrow's meeting of the cabinet will also decide to convene the meeting of the National Assembly to discuss the law and order situation.

Reasons Cited for Cancellation

OW3006132491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1303 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Islamabad, June 30 KYODO—Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has postponed his visit to Japan because of deteriorating domestic law and order, particularly the gruesome slaying of six members of a family in a Lahore suburb Saturday evening, his adviser said Sunday.

The adviser, Sheikh Rashid, told reporters after Sunday's cabinet meeting, which decided to postpone the prime minister's visit on the eve of his departure, that the trip to Japan was primarily aimed at seeking increased Japanese investment.

But with deteriorating domestic law and order, Rashid said, it would be futile to ask for foreign private investment.

He said that a new date for the prime minister's visit to Japan would be agreed on after mutual consultation.

Moreover, Sharif would have been forced to cut short his visit if similar incidents had occurred during his absence, he said.

Another special session of the federal cabinet is scheduled for Monday afternoon, which will be attended by chief ministers of the four provinces, who will be briefed about the domestic situation by intelligence agencies.

The adviser said two incidents of butchery of innocent citizens have been "a conspiracy aimed at destabilizing the present government and democracy in Pakistan."

He said a foreign hand working in concert with agents in Pakistan was responsible for the incidents of terrorism.

When pressed to identify the foreign hand, he did not name India, but said a country in the region, which itself has been destabilized because of internal strife, was trying to undermine stability in Pakistan.

Sharif Offers Apology for Cancellation

BK3006163891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1629 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] Islamabad, June 30 (AFP)—Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, apologizing for the last minute cancellation of his trip to Japan, said Sunday he was confident the security forces will overcome a "foreign inspired" crime wave aimed at hitting Pakistan's economy. "I must aplogise to the people and government of Japan" for calling off the visit at the eleventh hour, he said in an interview with a group of Asian and Japanese journalists.

The prime minister was scheduled to leave for Tokyo Monday on a five-day visit to be followed by a one-day stopover in Hong Kong. But the visit was put off as a shock wave gripped the country with a spate of killings this week including the murders of 19 people in two successive massacres by unidentified terrorists in his home city Lahore and the nearby industrial town of Sheikhupura.

"I had attached a lot of importance to my meetings with the government leaders in Japan with whom we have strong economic relations," the prime minister said adding that the visit would have been "beneficial for us."

The prime minister, who appeared concerned but confident, said his government would overcome the lawlessness and would not allow anarchy in the country. He claimed that external hand was behind the wave of violence in the country. "Foreign agents are working against us," he said adding that their motive was to destabilise his government and upset his economic programme.

He stressed that despite heavy odds and temporary setbacks during the Gulf war the economy "picked up very well." It was expected the performance would be much better next year because of reforms he introduced to restore confidence in business community, he added.

He said he has made Pakistan a free market for foreign currency. "You can open accounts in foreign currency and transfer the money anywhere in the world." Businessman can bring in as much capital as they want, invest in projects of their choice and repatriate all or part of the profits in foreign currency now, he added.

Mr Sharif said his policy received a positive response at home and abroad and the foreign exchange reserves were building up when the wave of terrorism was unleashed in the country.

The pattern was similar in the two recent slaughters, he said but he did not identify the external power involved in the worsening law and order situation.

However, his information advisor, Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed, earlier blamed neighbouring India, promising that parliament would be taken into confidence and elements behind the crime wave would be exposed.

Mr. Sharif, who was an industrialist from Lahore, said restoration of peace in the country, particularly in southern Sindh, was imperative for the progress of Pakistan. He said though banditry was a chronic problem in Sindh, it had become more serious with the abduction of foreigners. "We are taking very seriously" the recent developments in Sindh where three Japanese students were abducted in March and three Chinese engineers were kidnapped in May.

More than 1,000 people have been arrested throughout the province after an anti-terrorist court judge was gunned down earlier this month in the wake of political killings.

The provincial government is dealing with the problem with police and paramilitary forces, he said. The Constitution provides for the use of the army to quell lawlessness. "The army has not been called out so far but it can be deployed" if the situation warranted it, he added.

Mr. Sharif said under special laws to be enacted soon, trouble spots would be declared terrorist-affected zones and special courts will be set up to try criminals.

Postponement Blamed on 'Sabotage'

BK3006144091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1400 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has postponed his visit to Japan, which was scheduled to begin tomorrow, in view of the prevailaing law and order situation in the country. The decision to this effect was taken at the federal cabinet meeting in Islamabad today, which was chaired by the prime minister. The new date for his visit will be set by mutual consultations of the two governments.

Briefing newsmen on the cabinet meeting, Adviser on Information and Broadcasting Sheikh Rashid Ahmad said the meeting discussed in detail the existing law and order situation in the country. [passage omitted]

Referring to the recent events in Lahore and Shekhupura, the adviser on information has categorically stated that there cannot be any second opinion that the objective of such incidents is to spread fear and panic among the people. He said there is no doubt that some secret hand, whose aides are present inside and outside the

country, is not happy over the establishment of a stable government in Pakistan and promotion of democratic process in the country. He said these elements are spreading unrest and disorder among the people to sabotage the existing stable democratic system in the country.

Government Blames 'Foreign Agents'

BK3006140091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1341 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Islamabad, June 30 (AFP)—The Pakistani Government Sunday blamed foreign involvement for the law and order crisis prompting Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to cancel an official visit to Japan and Hong Kong.

"There is no doubt now that a secret hand was involved in a conspiracy to sabotage the democratic process in the country," Mr. Sharif's Information Advisor Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed told a news conference here.

"The countries facing internal disorder do not wish to see a stable government' their neighbourhood," Mr. Ahmed said, referring to India, with whom Pakistan has fought three wars. "They want to destabilise the government in Pakistan. He said the aim of recent brutal killings in Lahore and Sheikhupura of innocent families was "to spread panic among the people and upset the government's economic reforms."

"No Pakistani would massacre so brutally fellow Moslems, he said, stressing that foreign agents were behind the new crime wave.

They had sent "a wave of shock and terror" through the country, and the prime minister decided, after a detailed discussion on the situation, to postpone his trip.

The Foreign Office said Saturday the visit was important for the country in view of Mr. Sharif's economic development programme.

Observers said it was also political setback for Mr. Sharif as the lawlessness would slow the pace of Pakistan's development.

Asked if the cancellation meant the government feared the crisis would deepen, Mr. Ahmed said it was considered better to put off the trip than to curtail and rush back in case of emergency. He said Mr. Sharif had called the chief ministers of Pakistan's four provinces for an emergency meeting in Islamabad Monday with his full cabinet.

The meeting will assess the situation and take new measures to overcome the crisis, he said, adding that a special parliamentary session will also be convened soon to debate law and order. [passage omitted]

Indian Forces Fire From Kashmir Control Line

BK2906153591 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] According to ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, Indian forces today fired from the Line of Control without any provocation at the Neelum Valley [in Kashmir] causing voting at three polling stations at Athmoqam to remain suspended for some time. The agency has not reported any loss of life or property. The district returning office of Muzaffarabad said the affected polling stations are related to MA-23, Muzaffarabad-1. Normal polling resumed after one hour.

Spokesman Rejects Indian Allegation on Kashmir

BK3006160691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] A foreign office spokesman rejected as fictitious and ill-conceived the allegations of the Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman that Pakistan is abetting a group of extremists in occupied Kashmir, who have claimed kidnapping of an Israeli citizen, by providing weapons, training, and finance. The spokesman said Pakistan is completely fulfilling its international obligations against terrrorism and it is India which is committing acts of terrorism against the innocent people of Kashmir and has been targeting them of its widespread aggression, massacres and devastation. India is setting their homes on fire, violating the honor of women, arresting people en masse, and is destroying their economic fabric. All these acts are being committed to punish the Kashmiris for their demand toward the right of self determination.

Ministry on Presence of Israelis in Kashmir

BK2906152891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1450 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Islamabad, June 29 (AFP)—Pakistan said Saturday it was "intrigued" by the presence of Israeli tourists in the war-torn Indian state of Kashmir, after a newspaper report said they were there to sabotage a nearby Pakistani nuclear facility.

"Of course we are intrigued by the situation," a Foreign Office spokesman said here.

"It is hard to believe that so many foreigners were present there enjoying the scenic beauty in the valley in such a situation."

One Israeli was killed and another kidnapped after a group of eight young Israelis was attacked Wednesday night on their houseboat in picturesque Dal Lake.

But six Israelis managed to escape after a struggle broke out that resulted in the death of two of their would-be kidnappers, militants of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF).

The JKLF is one of a number of groups fighting to separate India's only Moslem-majority state from Indian control.

An intensive search was underway Saturday for the missing Israeli, 25-year-old Ya'ir Yitzhaqi, of Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, a local english language daily, THE MUSLIM, said the tourists were in fact "elite Israeli commandos."

Wednesday's incident may have destroyed a covert Israeli plan to somehow interfere with Pakistan's nuclear major facility at Kahuta, just 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the border with Indian Kashmir, THE MUSLIM said in a report from Washington.

The group's presence at a time when tourism is severely restricted in strife-torn Kashmir "exposes the Indo-Israeli collaboration to neutralise Pakistan's key nuclear installation," THE MUSLIM said.

"There is no doubt whatsoever that the commandos posing as tourists consisted of ground operators trained in counter-measures," the newspaper quoted an unnamed military expert as saying.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman refused to comment directly on the newspaper assessment.

"We don't have all the facts" but "we are analysing the reports carried by the press," he said.

Bomb Explosion in Islamabad Injures One

BK2806165191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1325 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Islamabad, June 28 (AFP)—A powerful bomb exploded in the busiest bazaar in the Pakistani capital Friday, slightly injuring one man, police said.

The bomb went off in a make-shift bazaar held in the city every week to offer goods such as fish, meat and vegetables at below market prices.

The bomb was planted near fruit crates and watermelons along the outer wall of the enclave known as Jumma Bazaar. Afghan refugees sell rugs and carpets in the area.

Police were questioning some Afghans but no arrest was made, they said.

Exploding with a deafening noise when the morning crowd had thronged the bazaar, the bomb which was heard several kilometers away caused panic and many shoppers and vendors fled for safety.

"Luckily it did not cause much damage," a police officer said, adding that only one man who received sharpnel injuries was taken to local hospital where his condition was reported out of danger.

The explosion was the first in Jumma Bazaar where security is usually tight. It follows a new wave of murders, robberies and bank hold-ups in the capital.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif earlier ordered the transfer of Islamabad's police chief for his alleged failure to check crimes in the capital. The order came after this week's murder of the wife of an intelligence department official by unidentified assailants.

Meanwhile in the Punjab capital Lahore, residents continued protests against Wednesday's slaughtering of 13 members of a businessman's family. Shops and commercial centres in Pakistan's second biggest city were closed and thousands of slogan-chanting people attended the mass funeral Thursday.

Mr. Sharif sent federal intelligence teams to Lahore to trace the culprits.

Violence in Lala Musa, Hyderabad Reported

BK2906031091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] According to reports, three motorcycle-borne unidentified men began shooting at a bus in a village near Lala Musa yesterday as a result of which seven persons were killed and 15 others injured. Police have registered a case against the culprits who fled the scene. Further investigations are continuing.

According to ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, eight persons, including three dacoits, two members of law enforcement agencies, and three kidnapped persons were killed yesterday in an exchange of fire between the law enforcement agencies and dacoits 12 km from Hyderabad.

Mujahidin Repulse Kabul Offensive in Khanabad

BK2706162491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have repulsed a Kabul regime's huge military onslaught for recapturing Khanabad city last night. According to Afghan news agency, the defeated Kabul forces escaped to the city of Kunduz, leaving behind a large quantity of arms and ammunition. Mujahidin say they have inflicted heavy losses on Kabul troops in men and material.

Another report says 20 civilians were killed, (?14) injured, and dozens of houses flattened in indiscriminate bombing by Kabul regime air force on the newly liberated town of Khowst last Tuesday [25 June]. There are also reports of a huge explosion in an ammunition dump in Pol-e Charkki on Sunday last in which five Kabul troops were killed and a number of military vehicles destroyed.

Seven Killed in Elections in Kashmir

BK2906155091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1423 GMT 29 Jun 91

[Text] Muzaffarabad, Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, June 29 (AFP)—At least seven people were killed and 11 injured as voting began Saturday to elect a 40-member state legislature in Pakistani-administered Kashmir, police here said.

Violence erupted in Kotli, Mirpur and Rawlakot, where supporters of rival candidates set ablaze several polling stations.

Army and paramilitary personnel rushed to the worst-affected towns of Kotli and Rawlakot, which border the Indian-held part of the Himalayan region.

Tension was high after rival groups freely exchanged fire with automatic weapons. The victims included a seven-year-old child caught in the crossfire, party sources said.

Armed troops were also patrolling the state capital of Muzaffarabad, where youths burned banners and posters to express indignation over polls being held for the second time in less than a year, following dissolution of the state assembly on March 31 by Prime Minister Mumtaz Rathor.

Mr. Rathor, who is leading former Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) wing in Azad (free) Kashmir, dismissed the assembly in advance of a no-confidence motion against his government.

But several groups and party leaders opposed new balloting at a time when hundreds of people were being killed in separatist violence in Indian-controlled Kashmir. Protestors called the elections inappropriate to the Kashmiris' independence struggle across the border.

Also Saturday, party sources said a grenade was reportedly hurled at Azad Kashmir President Sardar Abdul Qayyum as he returned Thursday from a public meeting of his all Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference (AJKMC).

Mr. Qayyum escaped unhurt and blamed Indian agents for the attack.

There are five major parties in the field but observers said the major contest would be between the AJKMC and the Mr. Rathor's PPP.

Voting here was brisk and peaceful in the first few hours. So 1.6 million registered voters were to choose from a total of 192 candidates, at least 80 of whom were independents.

Meanwhile the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) said polling remained suspended in three places in the Neelum Valley because of "unprovoked and indiscriminate" Indian artillery fire.

APP said the shelling started soon after polling opened and continued for 30 minutes, adding the target was Athmoqam which is located on the line of control dividing the Indian and Pakistani parts of the disputed state.

No loss of life or damage to property was reported and polling resumed an hour later, it said.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir, the northern third of which is controlled by Pakistan.

APP said the shelling on election day was meant "to create harassment among the voters and to keep them out" of the process.

Azad Kashmir Election Results Announced

BK3006162691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Text] In Azad Jammu and kashmir legislative assembly elections, the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference has won 28 seats out 34 unofficial results declared. The Jammu and Kashmir Jamoohri Ittehad [Democratic Alliance] has got three, the Azad Kashmir People's Party two seats, and independent one. According to APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN] results of four constituencies has been withheld due to incidents of disturbances in some polling stations.